

**Testimony Presented on the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) to the
Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the
District of Columbia**

**Testimony Presented by Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, Member, D.C. WASA
Board of Directors, and Chief Administrative Officer for
Prince George's County, Maryland.**

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

2:00 P.M.

Room 2157

Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

Chairman Davis, Ranking Member Marchant, and esteemed members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to present testimony on the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority. I have served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Prince George's County government since December 2002. Since April 5, 2006, I have served on the Board of Directors of the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority. As a Board member, I serve on the Budget and Finance Committee and on the Human Resources Committee. I take my responsibility to meet the mission of WASA very seriously, because what happens to and with WASA affects the region.

My testimony will focus on our concern regarding the impact of the WASA "Jobs for D.C. Residents Amendment Act of 2007" put forth by the District of Columbia City Council in the Budget Support Act of 2008. Of particular concern is page 12 of the legislation, which amends WASA's enabling legislation and requires the General Manager of WASA to be a resident of the District, and that a ten point preference be given to qualified District-resident applicants for positions at WASA. The legislation further requires the WASA Board of Directors to determine what an applicant has to submit for proof of residency. Please see the attached copy of D.C. Act 17-172 Section 213, page 12.

As a suburban Board member of this essential and regionally important authority, I have concerns regarding the impact of this legislation on the potential applicant pool for WASA. The present facts are as follows:

- 90% of the WASA service area is outside of the borders of the District of Columbia;
- 75% of the population served by WASA is outside of the borders of the District of Columbia; and
- 75% of current WASA employees' residences are outside the borders of the District of Columbia.

As of November 29, 2007, statistics for WASA's 979 employees' places of residence were as follows:

- 267 employees, or 27%, live in the District of Columbia
- 618 employees, or 63%, live in Maryland:
 - 410 employees live in Prince George's County
 - 80 employees live in Charles County
 - 55 employees live in Montgomery County
 - 21 employees live in Anne Arundel County
 - 14 employees live in Howard County
 - 13 employees live in Baltimore City
 - 13 employees live in Calvert County
 - 8 employees live in Baltimore County
 - 3 employees live in St. Mary's County
 - 1 employee lives in Queen Anne County
- 91 employees, or 9%, live in Virginia
- 2 employees, or 1%, live elsewhere

This data is presented to factually support the real regional nature of WASA, both as a service provider and as an employer. Imposing a District of Columbia residency preference onto a regional authority is not only discriminatory but it also diminishes the opportunities for WASA to continue to hire the best in the business regardless of residence. Our residentially diverse employees have produced one of the stellar water authorities in the nation. Why snatch defeat out of the jaws of success when we, as an authority, can continue to demonstrate workforce excellence in meeting our regional mission, which is: "To serve all of our customers with outstanding service by providing reliable and cost-effective water and wastewater services in accordance with best practices."

Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, D.C. WASA Testimony
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Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Attachment: "Jobs for D.C. Residents Amendment Act of 2007"