Directions: All yellow and gray highlights are spaces for modification/personalization. Template drafted by Karr Advocacy Strategies – contact: [cole@karradvocacy.com](mailto:cole@karradvocacy.com) [delete this portion before finalizing]

[District Letterhead]

MONTH XX, 2024

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| --- | --- | --- |
| The Honorable [Senator’s First and Name] [[look up](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)]  U.S. Senate  ADDRESS Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 |  |  |

**Re: Support for H.R. 7525 / S. 4673, the *Special District Grant Eligibility Act***

Dear Senator X:

On behalf of the [District Name], I write to express strong support for S. 4673, the *Special District Grant Eligibility Act*, and request your support and cosponsorship of this bipartisan legislation to define “special district” in federal law. At this time, the identical House version of the legislation, H.R. 7525, is moving in the Senate.

S. 4673 / H.R. 7525 would break down barriers we face to access federally-sourced funding for local governments’ critical infrastructure and essential services, and drive federal understanding of our sector of local government across the nation.

[District Name/Acronym] provides public [types of service(s)] services to our shared constituents in [name of community/city/area of county]. The District is a separate governmental entity from a city, county, or the state, providing [tax/rate]payer-funded services and overseen by a locally [elected/appointed] board.

Despite the essential public services we provide to our shared constituents – like 35,000+ other special districts across the country – “special district” is not formally defined in federal statute. Further, the federal government does not consider special districts to be a standard unit of government eligible to update or certify population and household statistics. Together, these issues create significantly higher barriers to access direct- or pass-through federal programs intended to supplement local governments’ critical infrastructure and other essential services.

[Optional: Have an example of a hardship (federal-related) your district has faced because of your special district status? Share in two or three sentences here. Please do not be concerned about keeping this letter to one-page in length. If not, please delete all content highlighted in gray.]

**H.R. 7525 / S. 4673 is a simple, straight-forward solution to a complex issue we face as a local special district government to access federally-sourced funding on a more level playing field with our fellow units of local government.**

Simply and specifically, this bill would define “special district” and require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance within six months to federal agencies that clarifies and reinforces that special districts are local governments. The guidance would be implemented across federal agencies over the course of a year with a report to Congress on the policy within two years of enactment.

For these reasons**, the [District Name/Acronym]** **respectfully urges your support and cosponsor of the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act*.**

Please consider the District a resource for you and your staff on this important issue, and we are happy answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [preferred contact information].

Sincerely,

Name

Title

District Name