

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

---

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson  
FROM: Councilmember Anita Bonds *AKB*  
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the July 7, 2020 Legislative Meeting  
DATE: June 30, 2020

I am writing to request that the following proposed resolution be placed on the agenda for the Legislative Meeting scheduled on July 7, 2020.

**Sense of the Council for Supporting Congressional Approval of a Federal Sustainable Water Affordability Program Resolution of 2020**

This measure would express the Sense of the Council for Congress to authorize a subsidy to support long-term, sustainable, and affordable access to water and sewerage services for low-income residents of the District of Columbia.

- **Inclusion in COVID-19 relief measures:** The resolution urges Congress to include authorization for such a subsidy in a forthcoming tranche of federal relief issued in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Model:** The resolution urges Congress to consider establishing an affordable water rates subsidy in a manner similar to the LIHEAP program, which provides approximately \$3.5 billion in annual federal funds in heating assistance for low-income families.
- **Public health supports:** The resolution expresses the significance of the subsidy in supporting the health of citizens of the District, particularly those in the service and hospitality trades with lower incomes, who have suffered significant economic hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **Existing Council authorities:** The resolution highlights that public utility shutoffs are currently prohibited under the Council's COVID-19 emergency legislation, and builds on these important measures by promoting permanent water access solutions for low-income families.
- **Rising water rates:** The resolution additionally expresses the Sense of the Council that water rates are on the rise nationally, and that this measure is a timely response.

Please contact Nathan Bell, Deputy Chief of Staff, at [nbell@dccouncil.us](mailto:nbell@dccouncil.us) or 202-724-5483 if you have any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia Office of the Secretary  
Office of the General Counsel  
Office of the Budget Director  
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs