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

[District Letterhead]

MONTH XX, 2024

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| --- | --- |
| The Honorable [Representative Name] [[look up](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)]  U.S. House of Representatives [ADDRESS/House Office Building] Washington, D.C. 20515 |  |

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

Dear Representative X:

On behalf of the [District Name], I write to express the District’s strong support for H.R. 7525, the *Special District Grant Eligibility Act*, and I request your support and cosponsorship of this bipartisan legislation to define “special district” in federal law.

[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.

We are one of approximately 35,000 special districts in the U.S. that altogether provide a range of critical infrastructure and essential community services to millions of Americans. Despite special purpose districts’ prevalence, federal law lacks a single definition or consistence reference to “special districts” As a result, we often face additional hurdles to access federal funding opportunities. Furthermore, federal law does not recognize special districts to be “geographic units of government,” resulting in the inability for many special districts to leverage federally recognized population data and statistics. This all leads to a difference in how special districts are treated in their access to federally-funded programs for local governments.

[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.]

The *Special District Grant Accessibility Act*, sponsored by Rep. Pat Fallon and co-led by Rep. Brittany Pettersen, is the catalyst to solve this problem by providing clarity on what special districts are and placing us on a more level playing field to pursue federal funding opportunities.

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.

H.R. 7525would ultimately help our District have a more level-playing field to access to local government programs in the future. 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