

among his peers. Under his leadership, Mr. McDonald was the master negotiator and Local 1650 was a force to be reckoned with. They negotiated strong contracts featuring shared governance, community service, wages, post tenure review, distance education, intellectual property, and professional development. His leadership brought recognition to the union on a national level, where Mr. McDonald served as the American Federation of Teachers National Vice President. To celebrate his 40th anniversary as president of Local 1650, his fellow officers dedicated the Library of Labor Studies at Henry Ford College in his honor.

A fixture at Henry Ford College and in Dearborn, Mr. McDonald was an advocate for education and for his community. As he often said, "Henry Ford College is Dearborn's College." He knew that this school opened doors for its students and relished in uplifting all who crossed his path. The ultimate educator, the world was his classroom. Those who knew him know of his tenacity, compassion, and sharp wit.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of John McDonald, we are all thankful for his dedication to education and the labor movement. A trusted friend and confidante of mine and a giant in our community, our thoughts are with his wife, Denise, and his family at this time. We are forever grateful for his lifetime of work and know that his legacy will live on in those who he touched at Henry Ford College.

NASA ENHANCED USE LEASING EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of support for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746.

DEMOCRACY 21,

Washington, DC, January 13, 2022.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Democracy 21 strongly supports and urges you to vote for the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act and for the rule to bring it to the House floor.

The right of every eligible American to vote and have their vote properly counted is the cornerstone of our democracy. This fundamental right and our democracy are at grave risk today.

In 2021, Republican-controlled state legislatures across the country enacted a wave of unprecedented voter suppression and election sabotage laws in the name of "election integrity." More are expected to be enacted in 2022.

The state laws stemmed from the Trump Big Lie that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him, even though there was not a shred of evidence to support his demagogic claim. Trump's own top government security officials found that the 2020 election "was the most secure in American history."

The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act would override the state voter suppression laws for federal elections and combat the state election sabotage laws that empower partisan election officials to rig the results of federal races. The Act would also prevent

partisan gerrymandering and provide essential campaign finance reforms.

The Act would protect the right of every eligible American to vote and preserve our democracy.

Democracy 21 strongly urges you to vote for the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

Sincerely,

FRED WERTHEIMER,
President.

DÉMOS,

January 13, 2022.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We write in strong support of the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which will ensure that voters can safely and freely cast their ballots, protect against election sabotage, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money in politics so that billionaires can't buy elections.

Nineteen states enacted 34 new laws that restrict access to the ballot box in 2021 alone and more are under consideration today. Candidates are running for top election offices peddling the Big Lie. States are passing racially gerrymandered maps that dilute the power of Black and Brown voters. This legislation would fight back against all these attacks and ensure the ability for every American to participate in safe, accessible, and transparent elections.

Demos is a think tank that powers the movement for a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy. Demos means "the people" and is the root word of democracy. Our name reminds us that America's power is derived from the diversity of its people, and that we do not have democracy unless all of our people can participate meaningfully in the political process.

The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act is a major step in the direction of ensuring all Americans can participate in our democracy. Our organization fully endorses this bill and urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

TAIFA SMITH BUTLER,
President, Demos.

PEOPLE'S ACTION,
January 13, 2022.

Contact: Megan Essaheb, Director of Federal Affair.

PEOPLE'S ACTION URGES A YES VOTE ON THE
FREEDOM TO VOTE: JOHN R. LEWIS ACT

People's Action strongly supports the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which will ensure that voters can safely and freely cast their ballots, protect against election sabotage, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money in politics so that billionaires can't buy elections.

Nineteen states enacted 34 new laws that restrict access to the ballot box in 2021 alone and more are under consideration today. Candidates are running for top election offices peddling the Big Lie. States are passing racially-gerrymandered maps that dilute the power of Black and Brown voters. This legislation would fight back against all these attacks and ensure the ability for every American to participate in safe, accessible, and transparent elections.

People's Action fully endorses this bill and urges you to support this legislation.

People's Action is a national network of 40 state and local grassroots power-building organizations united in fighting for justice. We are a multi-racial, multi-generational, working-class coalition working to build the power of poor and working people across rural, suburban, and urban areas to win change through issue campaigns and elections.

PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT,

January 13, 2022.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: I write on behalf of the Project On Government Oversight, in strong support of the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which will ensure that voters can safely and freely cast their ballots, protect against election sabotage, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money in politics. This legislation is necessary to protect the freedom of all Americans to elect their leaders.

POGO is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that investigates and exposes waste, corruption, abuse of power, and when the government fails to serve the public or silences those who report wrongdoing. We champion reforms to achieve a more effective, ethical, and accountable federal government that safeguards constitutional principles.

The freedom to vote is under threat across the country. In 2021 alone, 19 states enacted 34 new laws that restrict access to the ballot box. More are under consideration today. Candidates are running for top election offices spreading dangerous and debunked claims of widespread voter fraud. States are passing racially gerrymandered maps that dilute the power of Black and brown voters. This legislation would fight back against all these attacks and protect the foundational right to participate in safe, accessible, and transparent elections.

Elections allow citizens to choose their leaders—and to vote them out of office if they abuse their power or act corruptly. Undermining Americans' ability to cast their ballots weakens the single best tool we have to hold our government and its leaders accountable. Our elected officials need to stop everything else they are doing and prioritize efforts to preserve our democracy.

The Project On Government Oversight fully endorses the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act and urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

DANIELLE BRIAN,
Executive Director.

STAND UP AMERICA,
New York, NY,
January 13, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We write in strong support of the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which will ensure that voters can safely and freely cast their ballots, protect against election sabotage, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money in politics so that billionaires can't buy elections.

Nineteen states enacted 34 new laws that restrict access to the ballot box in 2021 alone and more are under consideration today. Candidates are running for top election offices peddling the Big Lie. States are passing racially-gerrymandered maps that dilute the power of Black and Brown voters. This legislation would fight back against all these attacks and ensure the ability for every American to participate in safe, accessible, and transparent elections.

The Stand Up America community has made over 100,000 calls to Congress in support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act, the provisions of which are both included in this Important new legislation.

With the energy of our 2 million members behind us, our organization fully endorses

this bill and urges every member of the House of Representatives to immediately pass this important legislation that is critical to protecting our democracy and our freedom to vote.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA HARVEY,
Executive Director,
Stand Up America.