



**#Tea4DC**

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The patriot James Otis of Boston, Massachusetts, pronounced that “taxation without representation is tyranny.” A few years later, on December 16, 1773, his words inspired a handful of brave revolutionaries known as the Sons of Liberty to dump tea into the Boston Harbor in protest of that tyranny. As we all learned in grade school, this iconic event sparked a revolution which ultimately led to the creation of the world’s greatest democracy.

Now, after 244 years, Washingtonians find themselves in the position of our forefathers. But instead of taking action, we pass ballot referendum that are summarily ignored by our overseers and write slogans on our license plates. In the end, we accept our fate as if it were some divine pronouncement which offers little recourse. Although we complain, we move on, barely noting another passing year and the bravery of our forefathers and then continue to accept the violation of our basic civil rights.

Well, I say enough is enough. It’s time to get angry. It’s time to get active and it’s time to finally fulfill the promise of equality inherent in any democracy. We’ve given up our most fundamental right without a proper fight, and I’m tired of being all show and no-go.

My great, great, great, great grandfather, William Prescott, was an officer in the Continental Army. He put his life, liberty and property on the line to secure for himself and his posterity the basic rights of citizenship. As one of his successors, I am angry that I am still denied these rights after more than 200 years.

I am angry at a Congress who treats this injustice with partisan indifference. I am angry at the media who give little or no attention to our inequality, acting as if it were simply a passing political curiosity. I am angry at my fellow DC residents who complain in silence and refuse to stand up and be reckoned with. I am angry at a local government who will talk-the-talk, but then won’t walk-the-walk – investing 200 times more in a streetcar line than in efforts to secure our basic civil rights through statehood.

I’m angry, and I think we should all be angry. We have just seen, in Alabama, a fearsome battle for a single Senate seat. Imagine how two voting Senators and a vote in the House of Representatives would change America, yet we grouse and we grumble and then we do nothing.

Like Fannie Lou Hamer, “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired” and that makes me most angry. I think it’s time for all DC residents to band together and express our anger to the world. It’s time to start a fight and stand up like others who are finally finding their voice and saying: “no longer will we tolerate the harassment that is an intrinsic part of our inequality.” No longer will we allow ourselves to be abused and remain silent. No longer will we accept the unacceptable. Like the brave Sons of Liberty, it’s time to start a revolution and I say we start it today. I call on patriots everywhere this December 16<sup>th</sup> to take a stand for democracy and join together under the hashtag **#Tea4DC** and say to the world: set us free, make us equal, let our voices be heard.

The District of Columbia has been part of America since America began and after 244 years of loyal citizenship, we deserve statehood because it’s the right thing to do. Join me by using the hashtag **#Tea4DC** and let’s end this injustice once and for all!

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