

Ward Three Democratic Committee
December 20, 2021
Resolution of Support for Scott Strauss for Appointment to the Available Position for
Commissioner of DC's Public Service Commission

Whereas, the District of Columbia Public Service Commission has authority and responsibility to set rates, determine service, and other significant substantial matters regarding public utilities for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, the Public Utilities for the District of Columbia provide important and essential services such as electric power, natural gas, and communication, including voice, data, and digital services provided by public utility companies to the businesses, residences, government, commercial and other entities in the District of Columbia with local, national and international impacts;

Whereas the District of Columbia Public Service Commission exercises substantial authority over these services, including rates, reliability, maintenance and other material aspects;

Whereas the exercise of this authority is carried out by three Commissioners and one of the three Commission positions is currently vacant;

Whereas, the decisions of the Commission materially and substantially affect the economy and the life of the District of Columbia, including the District and Federal Government, Embassies, International Organizations and the like;

Whereas, the leadership and regulatory capacity of the Commissioners are vital to the effectiveness of the District of Columbia in discharging its duties and responsibilities to the District of Columbia and its residents;

Whereas with many important matters facing the Commission for the future, it is imperative that nominees have high levels of capacity to regulate these businesses which have substantial investments and public interest duty to and effect on the District of Columbia;

Whereas, having Commissioners on the Public Service Commission who have substantial experience in public utilities is essential because of the highly technical nature of the business and urgent public interest in the outcomes, the Ward Three Democratic Committee strongly recommends that the available Commission position be filled with a person with strong experience in public utility litigation and issues;

Whereas, Scott Strauss is highly experienced and responsible and mature in the matter of public utility regulation and the Committee strongly recommends the Mayor nominate Mr. Strauss for the vacant position;

Whereas Scott Strauss, a partner in the regulatory litigation firm of Spiegel and McDiarmid, has served as lead counsel for numerous utility and ratemaking cases at state and Federal regulatory commission and has been cited for his ability to present highly complex material to tribunals in a manner that is both engaging and persuasive. We feel strongly that Mr. Strauss would bring considerable sophistication and responsible experience to the Public Service Commission which would strongly enhance its operation and regulation in the best interests of DC residents, rate payers and taxpayers as well as the companies and the District of Columbia;

Whereas, on March 13, 2018, the Ward 3 Democrats passed three resolutions strongly demonstrating their interest and commitment in having PSC Commissioners who have the experience, judgement, and independence to act in the public interest on issues including rate increases.

Whereas, on May 11, 2020, the Ward 3 Democrats passed a resolution endorsing Scott Strauss, along with two other qualified individuals, to fill the PSC Commissioner vacancy;

Whereas, on October 21, 2021, the Ward 3 Democrats passed a resolution defining broad requirements for PSC Commissioners;

Whereas, consistent with and in support of the objectives of the March 13, 2018, May 11, 2020 and October 21, 2021 resolutions in promoting nominees that have "high levels of capacity to regulate these businesses" and are "highly experienced and responsible and mature in the matter of public utility regulation," allowing them to act in the public interest and protect rate

payers, the Ward 3 Transportation and Environment Task Force supports the nomination of Scott Strauss to fill the vacant position on the PSC;

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Ward Three Democratic Committee that critical decisions in the appointment process for a new Commissioner will likely occur in early 2022, highlighting the urgency of submitting recommendations of qualified candidates;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Ward Three Democratic Committee, in furtherance of the Committee's public interest objectives, that it strongly recommends that the Mayor of the District of Columbia nominate Scott Strauss for the available Commission position.

Therefore, it is hereby further resolved by the Ward 3 Democratic Committee that this resolution be communicated to the Mayor and to all members of the DC Council, to the Chair of the Democratic State Committee, and the Chairs of all DC Democratic Ward committees.

Therefore, it is hereby further resolved that the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or the Chair's designee(s) are authorized to transmit, testify to, publicize, and otherwise carry out this resolution.

Approved by
Ward 3 Democratic Committee