October 30, 2000

Mr. Tom Gurske
2190 Stokes St. #205
San Jose, CA 95128

Dear Tom,

Thank you for writing to inquire about Congressional authority over the United States and the District of Columbia.

Your assertion that Congress has exclusive legislative authority over Washington, D.C. and limited legislative authority over the states is correct. There is no Constitutional requirement to identify the source of authority when passing a particular law, and often there are multiple or overlapping authorities for the same law. Because Congress may pass laws both national and local in scope, evaluations of Constitutional authority must be done on a case by case basis.

I have enclosed a letter from the American Law Division of the Library of Congress regarding your question, and I hope that this information is helpful to you. Again, thank you for writing, and if I can be of further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress