Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

January 9, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Trump, Leader McConnell, and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of our region's 24 local jurisdictions, which are home to the nation's capital and numerous federal agencies and contractors, we are writing to urge you to end the partial shutdown and reopen the federal government. With each passing day, the shutdown increasingly impacts Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia, causing unnecessary harm to our citizens, businesses, and the regional economy. This Friday, instead of a typical payday for federal employees, a portion of our region's 361,000 federal workers and 400,000 contracted employees will have to provide for themselves and their families without a paycheck.

Beyond the federal workers and contractors affected, the shutdown reaches far into our communities. Many small businesses like food service, cleaning, and security, plus workers who support tourists visiting our nation's monuments, are facing serious hardship. We agree with Governors Hogan and Northam and Mayor Bowser that if the shutdown continues, impacts will be compounded on state and local budgets.

Economic growth requires certainty at all levels of government, and our residents expect their leaders to find constructive solutions. Please act now to solve this impasse and put all federal employees and contractors—and our entire region—back to work in the service of our nation and the general public.

Sincerely,

Robert C. White, Jr.
Chair, COG Board of Directors
Councilmember, District of Columbia

Derrick L. Davis
Vice Chair, COG Board of Directors
Councilmember, Prince George's County, Maryland

Christian Dorsey
Vice Chair, COG Board of Directors
Chair, Arlington County, Virginia