

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AD-HOC COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) received briefings on the *What Our Region Grows* report and its recommendations to strengthen region's food and agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments, businesses and other organizations have recognized the importance of having locally and regionally produced food and agriculture products for employment opportunities, food supply, security, and resiliency, and the host of benefits provided via the sound management and protection of our agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the *What Our Region Grows* report provides recommendations to enhance regional food production and managing resources to protect the quality, health and functionality of our local agricultural economy across urban and rural communities, consistent with COG's Region Forward vision; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 CBPC formed an Ag Task Force to advise on the implementation of recommendations in *What Our Region Grows* and summarized findings in its Agricultural Task Force: Draft Working Paper; and

WHEREAS, a key recommendation of the *What Our Region Grows* report and the Ag Task Force is to establish a committee to advise COG on food and farming related issues, to work towards the goals established in the report, and to facilitate the development of a more connected, resilient food system; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has affirmed the importance of collaborating across jurisdictions to support enhanced food security, supply chain resiliency, and solutions centering racial equity as a key criteria in making policy and investment decisions across systems; and

WHEREAS, CBPC requests the COG Board of Directors endorse the establishment of a Regional Food and Agriculture Ad-Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Committee would be comprised of 25 members representing the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, Regional Forward Coalition, and other interested officials, appointed by the COG Board of Directors and subject matter experts representing local and state food and agriculture interests appointed by the Ad-Hoc Committee Chair as is provided in the Ad-Hoc Committee bylaws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Board endorses the establishment of a Regional Food and Agriculture Ad-Hoc Committee for a two-year period ending in September, 2022 (with the option to extend by the Board), which would be charged with assisting COG in continuing its COVID-19 food security programming and

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furthering the goals identified in the *What Our Region Grows* report to the benefit of member jurisdictions; and

Further, the Board asks that a slate of members be proposed for Board consideration at its next meeting contemporaneous with the Board Chair's nomination of the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee; and

Further, the Board approves the mission statement of the Ad Hoc Committee as follows: The Regional Food and Agriculture Ad-Hoc Committee will create a new model for regional collaboration that leverages data, best practices, and expertise to drive policy change and investment to improve the resiliency of the metropolitan Washington region's food system. and

Finally, the Board acknowledges the Ad Hoc Committee's intent to follow the Bylaws of the Board of Directors.