

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002-4239**

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED FY 2006 BUDGET

WHEREAS, President Bush released his proposed FY 2006 Budget on February 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2006 Budget contains many direct and indirect financial implications for the National Capital Region, for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), for the nineteen jurisdictions comprising COG, and for every resident and taxpayer within the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2006 Budget contains reductions of \$212 billion in discretionary domestic spending and \$138 billion in mandatory domestic spending over the next five years, many of which cuts occur in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, these proposed cuts dramatically decrease the federal governments participation in programs impacting the National Capital Region, including child welfare programs, Medicaid, preventive health programs, community development programs, law enforcement programs, and environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, several areas of increase will affirmatively assist the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the COG participating jurisdictions in meeting the needs of the National Capital Region.

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

1. That the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments expresses support for those elements in the budget which specifically address the needs of the region as a region, including:
 - the funding of TEA 21 and recognition of the transportation needs highlighted by the Transportation Planning Board; and
 - the continuation of UASI funding assisting COG and the region in the planning and preparation for emergency response.
2. That the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments expresses serious concern over those elements in the budget which substantially reduce or eliminate support for underserved populations within the region, including:
 - elimination of the Community Development Block Grant program, and the reduction of other housing and community development programs and their relocation to the Department of Commerce from their historic and natural home in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
 - cuts in Medicaid, preventive health grants, and disease prevention and control; and
 - reduction in housing vouchers and housing voucher eligibility.
3. That the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments urges consideration in this FY 2006 budget cycle for Federal support for the region's largest two initiatives – protection and improvement of the Chesapeake Bay and permanent enhanced for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and public transportation.

4. That the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments urges its members and participating jurisdictions to carefully analyze the proposed FY 2006 Budget for those increases and reductions which impact their residents and their greatest needs.
5. That the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments urges its members and participating jurisdictions to meet, confer, and advocate on behalf of the budgetary needs of the region and its residents with their Senators and Representatives.
6. That the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments urges its members and participating jurisdictions to work collaboratively through COG to formulate regional positions on specific budget items as Congress deliberates and crafts legislative responses and alternatives to the President's Proposed FY 2006 Budget.
