

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR THE
WASHINGTON AREA HOUSING TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, the rising costs of rental and for sale housing in the Washington metropolitan region, with median home prices of more than half a million dollar in several area jurisdictions, demands a concerted regional response from area local governments, the federal government (the region's largest employer), corporations and foundations; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has a long history of promoting innovative affordable housing policies and best practices in the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board adopted in 2001, *Finding a Way Home: Building Communities with Affordable Housing – A Policy Statement and A Regional Housing Trust Fund Proposal*; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund (WAHTF) was established in 2002 with public and private sector support, including special federal funding; and

WHEREAS, WAHTF has proven effective in supporting, with the concurrence of relevant local governments, several workforce housing developments in the Washington metropolitan region helping to preserve or create 500 affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, 10 area local governments have provided voluntary funding to help support WAHTF, leveraging nearly \$1 million in federal funding and growing private sector support; and

WHEREAS, WAHTF seeks continued support from area local and state governments, the federal government, and the private sector to allow WAHTF to preserve and expand workforce housing opportunities in the Washington metropolitan region.

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

1. Area local governments are urged to provide voluntary financial support to WAHTF to enable the Fund to preserve and expand workforce housing in the Washington metropolitan region.
2. The federal government is urged to approve \$1 million in WAHTF funding in the FY 2006 budget.
3. Copies of the resolution shall be sent to area local governments, key federal agencies and the region's Congressional delegation.