

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

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL FUND**

**WHEREAS**, state and local governments, businesses and other organizations have recognized the importance of food security and having locally and regionally produced food and agriculture products for a host of benefits including, healthy food access, diverse sources of supply and distribution, food system resilience, protection of our agricultural lands, and employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2020 the COG Board established a Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad-hoc Committee for the duration of one year; and

**WHEREAS**, the FARM Ad-hoc Committee was tasked with making policy recommendations for member jurisdictions to support a more resilient, connected food and farm economy in metropolitan Washington; recommending how to provide long-term direction and collaboration through a regional food and agriculture committee representing diverse entities across metropolitan Washington; furthering the goals identified in the *What Our Region Grows* report to the benefit of member jurisdictions; and assisting COG in continuing its COVID-19 food security collaboration; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the committee would be comprised of members representing COG member jurisdictions and subject matter experts representing local and state food and agriculture interests as is provided in the Committee bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Committee and work program will be to address food insecurity and build a more resilient, connected food and farm economy in the metropolitan Washington region; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a regional fund is necessary to support the work of the committee and improve food security in the near and long term throughout the region and annual contribution levels will be set as part of the Board's consideration of COG member dues and regional fees beginning in FY2023.

**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 Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee and regional fund (beginning in FY2023) to support the work. The FARM Committee and work program will be charged with:

1. Improving food security in the region
2. Supporting Black, Indigenous, and people of color and small farmers
3. Focusing FARM's work on farmland preservation, land use regulations, environmental sustainability, and resilience
4. Improving and communicating regional food system data
5. Leveraging procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors  
October 13, 2021**

**Janele Partman  
COG Communications Specialist**