

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

RESOLUTION REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT
FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION MUTUAL AID

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has long advocated and facilitated the use of Mutual Aid Agreements between and among the jurisdictions of the National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated the need for additional and improved Mutual Aid Agreements among these jurisdictions and others to best prepare for and respond to regional emergencies; and

WHEREAS, differences in statutory and case law among the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia have effectively precluded the amendment of existing or the adoption of new Mutual Aid Agreements; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the COG Board and the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council, attorneys for COG participating jurisdictions, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Department of Homeland Security have spent many months and many meetings discussing alternative potential solutions to this inability to adequately provide mutual aid in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, all attorneys participating in this review have come to the conclusion that a federal statute addressing the particular needs of the National Capital Region is required – a conclusion concurred in by the emergency management officials of the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Office of National Capital Region Coordination of the Department of Homeland Security and (at its meeting of June, 2003) the COG Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, after many attempts to craft a statute which addresses the various concerns of the local and state governments and all affected federal entities as well, the attorneys participating in this review have authored a proposed “National Capital Region Mutual Aid Authorization Act,” which has been reviewed by and accommodates the needs of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Secret Service; and

WHEREAS, the COG Attorneys Committee has requested the COG Board to endorse this statutory solution and to make its support known to Congress.

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

1. Endorses and supports the proposed “National Capital Region Mutual Aid Authorization Act,” as crafted and presented to the COG Board by the COG Attorneys Committee with the assistance and support of the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Department of Homeland Security.
2. Urges the Congress of the United States to consider and enact the proposed “National Capital Region Mutual Aid Authorization Act” as soon as possible.

3. Authorizes COG staff and members of the COG Attorneys Committee to present the proposed “National Capital Region Mutual Aid Authorization Act” and relevant and supportive background material to the Region’s Congressional delegation and appropriate Committees.
4. Requests COG’s participating jurisdictions to endorse and support the concept and language of the proposed “National Capital Region Mutual Aid Authorization Act,” and to solicit support from their respective Congressional delegations.
