

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DIMINISH
PAWNSHOP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has sought methods to protect the safety of the citizens of the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, COG jurisdictions have worked in traditional and creative ways to address the problems of crime throughout the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, since the Fall of 2004, COG jurisdictions have initiated and maintained the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS), a pilot program designed to permit law enforcement agencies to secure real time information about property being pawned throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the COG Police Chiefs Committee, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association have identified the RPDSS as a critical law enforcement tool in the investigation of crime impacting the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, in January 2006, Virginia Tech University estimated in an independent evaluation of the RPDSS that over 450 cases were closed in a six-month period that would have likely remained unsolved if not for the information in RPDSS, and that over \$450,300 worth of property was recovered in cases where RPDSS information was used; and

WHEREAS, the COG Police Chiefs Committee has expressed strong opposition to any legislation that would diminish or weaken pawnshop's reporting requirements.

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

1. The Board supports the Regional Pawn Data Sharing System as a critical law enforcement tool to help investigate crime impacting the Washington metropolitan region.
2. The Board strongly opposes any legislation that would diminish or weaken a pawnshop's requirement to report complete and accurate data on all pawn and sale transactions to local law enforcement.
3. The Board supports requesting action from its State and Federal Regional Delegations to encourage their State Legislatures and Congress to strongly oppose any legislation that would diminish or weaken a pawnshop's requirement to report complete and accurate data on all pawn and sale transactions to local law enforcement.