

# Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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May 27, 2009

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA DocketCenter (EPA/DC), Mailcode 6102T  
Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0171  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0171

To: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) regarding EPA's Proposed Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Clean Air Act signed on April 17, 2009. MWAQC is certified by the governors of Maryland and Virginia and the mayor of the District of Columbia to develop regional air pollution control strategies for the Washington, DC-MD-VA region.

MWAQC supports the concept of a national program to reduce the risks from climate change and reduce greenhouse gases. Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia have all initiated climate change initiatives, and the region worked together this past year to develop a regional climate plan.<sup>1</sup> While local and state actions are vital, state and local governments cannot solve the challenge by themselves without strong federal action. A comprehensive federal approach is essential for addressing climate change.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments<sup>2</sup> is forming a Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to lead regional initiatives on greenhouse gases and climate change in the metropolitan Washington region. We trust that CEEPC members will look forward to close consultation and cooperation with the USEPA, US DOE, USDOT and other agencies as appropriate as part of a local-state-federal partnership to meet the national and international climate change challenge.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson, Chair  
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/zldXXg20081203113034.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> MWCOC is a regional organization of Washington area local governments. COG is comprised of 21 local governments surrounding our nation's capital, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.