

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) AD-HOC COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, state and local governments, businesses and other organizations have recognized the importance of having locally and regionally produced food and agriculture products for a host of benefits including, employment opportunities, food supply, security, resiliency and protection of our agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors received briefings on the *What Our Region Grows* report and its recommendations to enhance regional food production and manage resources to protect the quality, health and functionality of our local agricultural economy across urban and rural communities, consistent with COG's Region Forward vision; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) formed an Agricultural Task Force to advise on the implementation of recommendations in *What Our Region Grows* and summarized findings in its Agricultural Task Force: Draft Working Paper; 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, CBPC, the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee, and the Region Forward Coalition requests the COG Board of Directors endorse the establishment of a Regional Food and Agriculture Regional Member Ad-Hoc Committee (FARM); and

WHEREAS, the committee would be comprised of 25 members representing the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, Regional Forward Coalition, other interested officials, and subject matter experts representing local and state food and agriculture interests as is provided in the Ad-Hoc Committee bylaws;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FARM will be to create a new standing committee for regional collaboration that leverages data, best practices, and expertise to drive policy change and investment to improve the resiliency of the metropolitan Washington region's food system.

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) Ad-Hoc Committee for a period of one year from its commencement (with necessary extension as approved by the COG Board), which would be charged with:

- 1) Making policy recommendations for member jurisdictions to support a more resilient, connected food and farm economy in metropolitan Washington'
- 2) Recommending how to provide long-term direction and collaboration through a regional food and agriculture committee representing diverse entities across metropolitan Washington;
- 3) Furthering the goals identified in the *What Our Region Grows* report to the benefit of member jurisdictions; and
- 4) Assisting COG in continuing its COVID-19 food security collaboration.

Further, the Board asks that a slate of members be proposed by the Chair for Board consideration at its next meeting contemporaneous with the Board Chair's nomination of the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the COG Board of Directors
September 9, 2020
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**