

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF
A CHESAPEAKE BAY FINANCING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a federal-state partnership dedicated to the restoration and protection of Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, in June 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Program partners signed the Chesapeake 2000 (C2K) agreement, which requires further major reductions in nutrient pollutants and sediment generated by wastewater plants, urban stormwater runoff and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) supports the attainment of the Chesapeake Bay Program's water quality goals throughout the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program has estimated that the cost of attaining these goals will require billions of dollars more than is currently being spent on Bay restoration efforts and COG recognizes that much of the responsibility for program implementation will fall on local governments; and

WHEREAS, COG believes that the financial burden of program implementation should be equitably shared among the federal, state and local government levels; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution R25-97, COG formally recognized the need for the state and federal authorities who control the Bay Program to consult local governments in making policy choices; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution R39-03, COG committed to "explore other means of providing financial assistance to support local government programs and policies that implement watershed management measures to benefit the Bay and local water quality, including the development of a regional authority for the Chesapeake Bay region under federal law;" and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel, in its report issued on October 27, 2004, called for the creation of a regional financing authority to be capitalized by \$15 billion in funding, of which 80 percent is to be derived from federal sources; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2005, the Chesapeake Executive Council directed the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee to convene a committee to provide a specific proposal, by July 1, 2005, for the establishment of a "Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority;" and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2005, the COG Board approved Resolution R2-05, directing COG to seek comment from the COG membership on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Finance Panel for the purpose of establishing a regional position on the recommendations for transmittal to the Chesapeake Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, comments received from the membership indicate support for the creation of the regional financing authority, with concerns regarding how such an authority would be implemented and operated; and

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

1. The Chair of the Board transmit a letter to the Chesapeake Executive Council supporting establishment of the Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority, with the caveats that: existing local and state expenditures for programs to meet the Bay Program's water quality goals and standards are counted toward the capitalization of the Financing Authority; that the Financing Authority provides new funding for Bay restoration; and that the full complement of comments received from COG's members be transmitted to the Executive Council for consideration by the committee charged with developing the implementation recommendations.
2. The Chair of the Board send letters to the Chairs and Ranking members of the House and Senate appropriations committees and the area Congressional delegation supporting full federal funding as recommended by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel to capitalize the new authority.
3. The Chair of the Board appoint two or more representatives of COG to serve on the Chesapeake Bay Program committee charged with the implementation of the Financing Authority and send a letter notifying the Chesapeake Bay Program of these appointments.
4. The COG Board requests that the Chesapeake Bay Program Committee, charged with implementation of the Financing Authority, submit its draft recommendation to the COG Board for concurrence, consideration, or comment prior to formal transmission to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

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