

# **LETTERS SENT/RECEIVED**



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*One Region Moving Forward*

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\*Adjunct Member*

October 25, 2011

Mr. Roger Millar  
Smart Growth America  
1707 L St. NW, Suite 1050  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Millar:

I am writing to indicate my strong support for the LEED for Neighborhood Development training assistance request being submitted by the staff of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to Smart Growth America (SGA) through EPA's Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program.

I currently Chair the Board of Directors of COG. We are the regional association of over 250 elected officials representing 21 local governments in the National Capital Region, including Washington, D.C., suburban Maryland and northern Virginia.

*Region Forward* is a vision for a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable National Capital Region. It was developed in 2008 to help the region meet future challenges like accommodating two million more people by 2050. In 2010, COG and its 21 local governments individually endorsed *Region Forward*. In June 2011, the Region Forward Coalition (RFC) held its inaugural meeting. RFC members will use *Region Forward* to measure progress, prioritize needs, and jumpstart projects that will help us meet our goals. The RFC has a broad membership of local, state and federal government officials, business and nonprofit leaders, and advocates that have committed to making good faith efforts to align their work with and advance implementation of the goals of *Region Forward*. A copy of the RFC membership roster is attached.

COG is committed to implementing smart growth solutions to help the region grow more sustainably and include all residents in future prosperity. The assistance we are requesting from SGA will support both local and regional efforts to move forward on these goals. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Maia A. Davis in the Department of Environmental Programs at 202-962-3227 or [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org).

Sincerely,



Andrea C. Harrison  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Attachment: Region Forward Coalition Membership Roster  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002  
202.962.3200 (Phone) 202.962.3201 (Fax) 202.962.3213 (TDD)

[www.mwkog.org](http://www.mwkog.org)



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\*Adjunct Member

October 14, 2011

Hon. Barbara A. Mikulski  
U.S. Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H.R. 1824 Relating to Composition of MWAA Board of Directors

Dear Senator Mikulski:

At its October 12th meeting, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors voted to oppose H.R. 1824 and to notify the National Capital Region Congressional delegation of this action. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the COG Board's action and the bases for it.

H.R. 1824 makes modifications to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Board of Directors. The bill was first introduced in May 2011 and, subsequently, included in FY 2012 appropriations legislation acted on in September by the House Appropriations Subcommittee. Unfortunately, the COG Board was not aware of the bill until recently.

The COG Board of Directors grounded its action in two principles:

- Regionally-serving bodies, such as MWAA, must demonstrate a strong regional commitment and perspective. The proposed legislation could upset the careful balance of jurisdictional and federal representation on the MWAA Board that has generally served the region well.
- Any significant shift in MWAA governance should be considered after input is sought from local elected officials throughout the National Capital Region. Local input is particularly important because of the location and impact of the airports and, especially since funding for MWAA-led projects, such as rail to Dulles, will increasingly come from local funding or tolls that affect the public.

In respectfully opposing H.R. 1824, the COG Board concluded that the proposed legislation may not be the best solution to address concerns about MWAA governance and decision-making. Further, the proposed legislation could shift the balance of shared responsibility and governance that is so critical to MWAA's success in the complex tri-state, multi-jurisdictional National Capital Region.

Importantly, in taking its action on October 12th, the COG Board criticized MWAA for unresponsiveness to area local, state and federal elected officials that in COG's view exacerbated concerns about MWAA governance and actions, perhaps giving rise to this legislation. Clearly, MWAA should have begun this dialogue much sooner.

At the meeting, MWAA officials pledged to the COG Board to do a better job of partnering with area elected officials. The COG Board will ask MWAA officials for an update on its progress in responding to these concerns in early 2012. Such dialogue is vital to maintaining open communication on what are clearly shared goals.

The National Capital Region has been extremely fortunate to have a Congressional delegation that has been steadfast in its support of regional approaches to tough issues like transportation and homeland security. COG looks forward to continued collaboration with the Congressional delegation and other regional leaders.

Please contact David Robertson, COG's Executive Director, at 202-962-3260 or [drobotson@mwkog.org](mailto:drobotson@mwkog.org) if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you for considering the COG Board's concerns and for your work on behalf of the region.

Sincerely,



Andrea C. Harrison  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Cc:  
COG Board of Directors  
MWAA Board of Directors

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*One Region Moving Forward*

October 13, 2011

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Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County  
\*Adjunct Member

Honorable Mark R. Warner  
U.S. Senate  
459A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

This year I have the honor of serving as the President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and will lead COG's Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon, scheduled for December 14 at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center.

In my dual roles as COG President and Mayor of the City of Alexandria, I would like to invite you to be the luncheon keynote speaker at COG's annual meeting.

As you know, COG represents a unique, multi-state region that has benefitted greatly from your leadership and collaboration with the Washington area congressional delegation. Your congressional leadership, coupled with your regional experience as Governor and a business innovator were the impetus for my colleagues on the COG Board asking that I invite you to be our annual meeting speaker this year.

Regional officials from the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia are especially interested in your thoughts on how the National Capital Region can thrive in a changing federal policy and budget environment.

COG's Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon is expected to include approximately 250 elected officials and business and civic leaders in the National Capital Region. COG will also present two awards and elect 2012 officers at the luncheon.

The annual meeting is scheduled to take place from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. I will follow up by telephone with your staff to provide additional information and to confirm your participation. You may also contact David Robertson, COG's executive director at 202-962-3260 or [drobotson@mwkog.org](mailto:drobotson@mwkog.org).

Sincerely,



William D. Euille  
Mayor, City of Alexandria  
COG President

777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002  
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