

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
777 N. Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM  
(H.R. 4126 AND S. 1490)**

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

**WHEREAS**, COG has consistently advocated reliance on the cooperative approach to achieving those goals, effective prior to the signing of the Chesapeake 2000 (C2K) agreement in June 2000 and forms the heart of the water quality section of C2K; and

**WHEREAS**, through Resolution R25-97, COG endorsed four basic principles for effectively achieving the Bay Program's goals: (1) the value of a voluntary cooperative approach as opposed to regulatory actions; (2) the importance of equity in allocating responsibilities and costs for Bay restoration; (3) the critical importance of good science to Bay restoration policy and public understanding of progress in the Bay cleanup effort; and (4) the fundamental role of providing local government voice in the policy process; and

**WHEREAS**, two bills (H.R. 4126 and S. 1490) have been introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to require environmental accountability and reporting and to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has consistently supported the provision of greater federal and state funds to help local governments implement practices that improve water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CPBC) strongly supports the proposed legislation.

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

The Chair of the Board transmit a letter to Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, with copies to the area Congressional delegation, supporting their proposed legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program. The letter shall include the following recommendations:

- The authorization for small watershed grants to local governments and non-governmental organizations be increased to at least \$16.5 million – 33% of the total Bay Program funds authorized each year; and
- The cap on small watershed grants be raised to \$1 million, a substantial increase over the present \$50,000 limit, in order to support significant restoration projects that are ready for implementation.