

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board recognizes that the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries provide a wide variety of economic and environmental benefits, employment opportunities, recreational opportunities, and ecological, cultural, and historic resources, and are fundamental to our region's quality of life, environment, and economic competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, COG members and water utilities have invested billions of dollars and resources as leaders in the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, and are seeing measurable improvements in Bay, Potomac, and Anacostia water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a clear and direct federal interest in the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries given that the Bay is the nation's largest estuary, is a \$130 billion annual economic driver, is home to approximately 18 million people, and multiple federal agencies provide significant technical support to the Bay restoration effort; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Office serves a unique, critical role in coordinating the multi-lateral Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts of the 20 federal agencies, six states, the District of Columbia, thousands of counties and towns, numerous universities, and other organizations; and provides essential technical resources via modeling and monitoring to ensure accountability, effectiveness, and equity among the Bay states; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress supported continuing the full funding for the CBP in FY 2017, and there is strong bipartisan support by metropolitan Washington Congressional members for continuing full funding in FY 2018 and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, reductions in critical funding for the CBP or that of the other associated federal agencies, at this tipping point in the Bay's progress, would risk slowing or reversing the progress and investments made to-date by the Bay states, local governments, and water utilities.

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

- 1) The board recognizes the value of clean water and the Chesapeake Bay and supports continued full funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program, and other federal water quality programs.
- 2) The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to communicate the board's position to the necessary entities and individuals at the local, state, and federal level.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on June 14, 2017.**

**Laura Ambrosio  
COG Communications Specialist**