

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGISLATION  
IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing shortage of affordable or workforce housing for residents of the National Capital Region presents a significant impediment to the reasonable growth and development of the region, exacerbating traffic congestion and related environmental degradation, and quality of life for many of the region's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has a long history of supporting programs that resources and access to affordable housing, including support of the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund created in 2002 (now merged into the OpenDoor Housing Fund), the Washington Area Housing Partnership and its *Affordable Housing Toolkit*, and adoption in 2001 of *Finding a Way Home: Building Communities with Affordable Housing*; and

**WHEREAS**, although affordable housing is a national concern, the lack of affordable and workforce housing in the National Capital Region not only poses sub-standard living for many residents, but extends commute times and infrastructure costs for the entire Region as medium and moderate income workers move farther and farther out to be able to afford acceptable housing for their families; and

**WHEREAS**, ways in which state and local governments may address this issue are currently being debated in the Maryland General Assembly, including consideration of methods of public investment in the provision of affordable housing, and in particular, a provision to permit the Department of Housing and Community Development to purchase and sell home loans to teachers and first responders, essentially subsidizing or underwriting mortgage interest costs for vital public employees.

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

1. COG endorses increased affordable housing within the National Capital Region and applauds efforts of federal, state, and local government entities, as well as the private sector, to address such an increase.
2. COG endorses Maryland efforts to increase the stock of affordable housing within the State and the National Capital Region, and supports consideration by the Maryland General Assembly of legislation which would increase public investment in affordable housing, such as HB 74, HB 231, HB 512, and SB 281.

3. COG commends specific consideration of novel approaches to the problem of providing workforce housing affordable by critical public employees in their own jurisdictions, such as HB 38.
4. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Maryland General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGISLATION  
IN THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of State Legislators, Members of Congress, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing shortage of affordable or workforce housing for residents of the National Capital Region presents a significant impediment to the reasonable growth and development of the region, exacerbating traffic congestion and related environmental degradation, and quality of life for many of the region's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has a long history of supporting programs that resources and access to affordable housing, including support of the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund created in 2002 (now merged into the OpenDoor Housing Fund), the Washington Area Housing Partnership and its *Affordable Housing Toolkit*, and adoption in 2001 of *Finding a Way Home: Building Communities with Affordable Housing*; and

**WHEREAS**, although affordable housing is a national concern, the lack of affordable and workforce housing in the National Capital Region not only poses sub-standard living for many residents, but extends commute times and infrastructure costs for the entire Region as medium and moderate income workers move farther and farther out to be able to afford acceptable housing for their families; and

**WHEREAS**, ways in which state and local governments may address this issue are currently being debated in the Virginia General Assembly, including consideration of methods of public investment in the provision of affordable housing and research into various methods of increasing the stock of affordable housing, in particular, a provision to create a study commission to consider affordable housing programs for public employees.

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

1. COG endorses increased affordable housing within the National Capital Region and applauds efforts of federal, state, and local government entities, as well as the private sector, to address such an increase.
2. COG endorses Virginia efforts to increase the stock of affordable housing within the Commonwealth and the National Capital Region, and supports consideration by the Virginia General Assembly of legislation which would increase public investment in affordable housing, such as HB 77, HB 289, HB 617, SB 661, SB 761, and HJ 108.
3. COG commends specific consideration of novel approaches to the problem of providing affordable workforce housing to critical public employees in their own jurisdictions, such as HJ 84.

4. COG notes the strong opposition of its Virginia jurisdictions to SB 768, which threatens to seriously weaken the 30-year old proffered rezoning process, and in particular negates efforts to use proffers to increase the availability of affordable housing.
5. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Virginia General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION  
IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the country and a significant environmental and economic resource for the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond, has suffered from environmental degradation and a continuing decline in water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has been involved in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for more than twenty years, as demonstrated by the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Policy and Water Resources Committee, endorsement of and advocacy for the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, and support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel; and

**WHEREAS**, although the COG region represents only five percent of the area of the Chesapeake Bay watershed it contains nearly thirty percent of its population, thereby magnifying both the degradation and remediation potential of Bay-related regional activities and efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Maryland's recently created Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund does not provide for administration or distribution of the Fund, although in the current session of the Maryland General Assembly SB 213 calls for distribution of funds for clean-up projects primarily on a competitive basis (overseen by state cabinet-level officials with recommendations from a scientific panel), but without a funding allocation by category, unlike the state's other main vehicle for funding Bay-related projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee has recommended that the Fund should: 1) support on-the-ground implementation projects to the maximum extent possible; (2) use a competitive process to allocate the Fund using clear criteria for project evaluation, emphasizing the cost-effective reduction of nutrients and sediment; and (3) ensure that projects addressing urban stormwater and stream restoration receive a reasonable share of overall monies.

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

1. COG endorses the concept of SB 213, calling for distribution of the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund on a competitive basis, but that the Maryland General Assembly provide criteria to be used in distribution determinations, including on-the-ground implementation projects, cost-effective reduction of nutrients and sediment, and ensuring a reasonable share of overall funds be allocated to urban stormwater and stream restoration.
2. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Maryland General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION  
IN THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the country and a significant environmental and economic resource for the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond, has suffered from environmental degradation and a continuing decline in water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has been involved in restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for more than twenty years, as demonstrated by the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Policy and Water Resources Committee, endorsement of and advocacy for the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, and support of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel; and

**WHEREAS**, although the COG region represents only five percent of the area of the Chesapeake Bay watershed it contains nearly thirty percent of its population, thereby magnifying both the degradation and remediation potential of Bay-related regional activities and efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) historically and currently has funded fifty percent of the upgrading wastewater treatment plants to meet Chesapeake Bay goals, and pending legislation in the Virginia General Assembly would create a new natural resource fund that would primarily be used to pay farmers to establish "best management practices" to minimize water quality pollution from their operations;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee has recommended general support for this effort, but has expressed concern over both the funding source and the possibility that funding of this agriculture-oriented program may endanger or limit necessary funding for the existing WQIF.

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

1. COG endorses the concept addressing agricultural pollution in the Virginia General Assembly as proposed in SB 511/HB 1335 and HB 727, but calls for maintenance of a dedicated revenue source to insure its adequate funding. COG also requests that any consideration of this effort not limit or reduce in any way the existing or necessary future funding levels of the existing Water Quality Improvement Fund.
2. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Virginia General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFICIENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY LEGISLATION  
IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing cost and availability of energy for the nation and residents of the National Capital Region threatens the environmental stability of the region and its quality of life, as well as presenting a significant impediment to the reasonable growth and development of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has a long history of supporting programs and policies that encourage and support energy conservation and efficiency, including adoption of an Energy Strategic Plan which outlines an energy vision and mission for the National Capital Region and identifies potential strategies that would address the region's diversity of energy sources, help manage its energy demand, mitigate the effects of energy disruptions, and enhance overall environmental quality; and

**WHEREAS**, COG promotes and supports implementation of technologies that foster a diverse supply of reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy supplies for the National Capital Region; and

**WHEREAS**, policies concerning environmentally sound, efficient, and affordable energy are national in scope, the National Capital Region continues to experience unacceptable fluctuations in energy pricing, combined with threatened shortages, and a constant tension between energy availability and public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland General Assembly is currently addressing issues of renewable energy and energy efficient standards, and methods and programs to encourage sustainable energy, including novel and alternative sources.

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

1. COG endorses legislative efforts to address environmentally sound energy sources which support efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy activities, in particular a reduction of current electricity consumption.
2. COG endorses the concepts of SB 209 and HB 375, as well as SB 205/HB 374, SB 268/368, and SB 207/HB 377, and commends the Maryland General Assembly and the Administration for strengthening the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard, reducing energy consumption, and fostering solar and geothermal initiatives.

3. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Maryland General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing cost and availability of energy for the nation and residents of the National Capital Region presents a significant impediment to the reasonable growth and development of the region, as well as threatening the environmental stability of the region and its quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has a long history of supporting programs and policies that encourage and support energy conservation and efficiency, including adoption of an Energy Strategic Plan which outlines an energy vision and mission for the National Capital Region and identifies potential strategies that would address the region's diversity of energy sources, help manage its energy demand, mitigate the effects of energy disruptions, and enhance overall environmental quality;

**WHEREAS**, COG promotes and supports implementation of technologies that foster a diverse supply of reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy supplies for the National Capital Region; and

**WHEREAS**, policies concerning environmentally sound, efficient, and affordable energy are national in scope, the National Capital Region continues to experience unacceptable fluctuations in energy pricing, combined with threatened shortages, and a constant tension between energy availability and public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly is currently addressing issues of renewable energy and energy efficient standards, and methods and programs to encourage sustainable energy, including novel and alternative sources.

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

1. COG endorses legislative efforts to address environmentally sound energy sources and supports research which considers ways in which renewable or sustainable energy sources can address the economic needs of the region and also assist in mitigating threats presented by greenhouse gases.
2. COG endorses the proposed Commission on Energy and Climate Change, SB 464, and encourages its consideration and passage by the Virginia General Assembly.
3. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Virginia General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION  
IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ENCOURAGING GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, integrating environmentally friendly development practices, collectively known as "Green Building," into commercial, residential, and public sector projects can reduce the impact of development relating to air and water quality, energy use, stormwater management, climate change, material use, natural resource preservation, and other health and environmental issues, while supporting economic growth and community health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG), consisting of technical and managerial staff from COG's jurisdictions, have reviewed and discussed existing and proposed local government Green Building policies and programs to consider best practices and to explore avenues for inter-jurisdictional coordination and proposed regional standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the ICBG, and an *ad hoc* review committee of local elected officials, have presented a Green Building Report which demonstrates that aggressive Green Building practices of development, construction, and management can save energy use by 30-50%, water consumption by 40%, solid waste by 70 %, and significantly reduce runoff from impervious surfaces, and reduce stress on public infrastructure, public health, and local ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has approved the IGBG Green Building Report as the guiding policy document for regional Green Building initiatives, realizing that a regionally consistent set of policies and standards for Green Building will benefit the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland General Assembly is currently considering legislation which would address the potential benefits of requiring standardized Green Building requirements on Maryland public buildings and certain private development within the State.

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

1. COG endorses the concept of HB 23, calling for development of Green Building standards and a cost benefit analysis of requiring their use in Maryland.
2. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Maryland General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION  
IN THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ENCOURAGING GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of elected officials in the National Capital Region consisting of Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local government officials representing twenty-one jurisdictions in the Region and their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, integrating environmentally friendly development practices, collectively known as "Green Building," into commercial, residential, and public sector projects can reduce the impact of development relating to air and water quality, energy use, stormwater management, climate change, material use, natural resource preservation, and other health and environmental issues, while supporting economic growth and community health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG), consisting of technical and managerial staff from COG's jurisdictions, have reviewed and discussed existing and proposed local government Green Building policies and programs to consider best practices and to explore avenues for inter-jurisdictional coordination and proposed regional standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the IGBG, and an *ad hoc* review committee of local elected officials, have presented a Green Building Report which demonstrates that aggressive Green Building practices of development, construction, and management can save energy use by 30-50%, water consumption by 40%, solid waste by 70 %, and significantly reduce runoff from impervious surfaces, and reduce stress on public infrastructure, public health, and local ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has approved the IGBG Green Building Report as the guiding policy document for regional Green Building initiatives, realizing that a regionally consistent set of policies and standards for Green Building will benefit the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly is currently considering legislation which would address the potential benefits of requiring standardized Green Building requirements on Virginia public buildings, and certain tax advantages for energy efficient private development within the Commonwealth.

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

1. COG endorses the concept of SB 447 and calls for Green Building standards for all public buildings in the Commonwealth.
2. COG directs that this resolution be forwarded to its members in the Virginia General Assembly and to the appropriate Committees of jurisdiction.