

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

**RESOLUTION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION TO  
REDUCE TRASH IN THE POTOMAC RIVER**

**WHEREAS**, the Potomac River and its many tributaries are a vital recreational resource for the region and a key contributor to the region's quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, this resource is severely degraded by the many forms of trash that float on the surface and collect on the shorelines of these rivers and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alice Ferguson Foundation (the Foundation), located in Accokeek, Maryland on the shores of the Potomac River, is a non-profit organization with a mission to "provide experiences that encourage connections between people, the natural environment, farming and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed, which lead to personal environmental responsibility;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Foundation has sponsored watershed cleanups throughout the Potomac watershed for 17 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foundation sponsored the signing of the "Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty" on March 28, 2005, by elected officials of six jurisdictions in the Potomac watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board at its meeting of April 13, 2005 indicated its interest in the goals of the trash Treaty and directed the COG staff to initiate a dialog with the Foundation to explore opportunities for assist with their efforts to reduce trash; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director of the Foundation presented a history of their involvement with their efforts to reduce trash and their vision for a "Trash Free Potomac by 2013;" and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board wishes to provide regional support in pursuit of this vision;

**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 Alice Ferguson Foundation commending them for their ongoing efforts to reduce trash on the Potomac River and indicating a desire to support their efforts in the future, including expanding the list of signatory jurisdictions to the Trash Treaty;
2. The Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, with support from the COG staff and the Water Resources Technical Committee, develop a set of recommendations for consideration by the COG Board on how to work most effectively with the Foundation in pursuit of their vision; and
3. Bring these recommendations back to the COG Board for consideration as soon as possible but no later than September, 2005.

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