

July 26, 2017

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE
AND THE
CLIMATE, ENERGY, & ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING COG'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUPPORT
ONGOING LOCAL AND REGIONAL EFFORTS TO MEET PARIS AGREEMENT GOALS**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was created in 1992 by the governors of Maryland and Virginia, and the mayor of the District of Columbia under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to, among other items, undertake regulatory or non-regulatory initiatives to improve regional air quality; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2008, through Resolution R60-08, the COG Board of Directors adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and its recommendations as COG's regional climate change policy, specifically including adoption of the recommended voluntary regional greenhouse gas emission reductions goals for 2012, 2020, and 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) was created in 2009 by COG Board Resolution R18-09 as its principal policy adviser on climate change, energy, green building, alternate fuels, solid waste and recycling policy issues, and other environmental issues, and adopted a regional climate change strategy to meet the regional greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report*; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan Washington does not meet the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and recognizes that greenhouse gas emission reduction actions in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and the CEEPC 2017-2020 Climate and Energy Action Plan provide significant air quality and climate co-benefits and will help contribute to meeting the 2015 8-hour ozone standard; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement is an international voluntary commitment to undertake ambitious efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board, at its meeting of June 14th, 2017, asked CEEPC to research local actions as well as ongoing and planned regional actions that contribute to furthering the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the CEEPC 2017-2020 Climate & Energy Action Plan, reflecting the input of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Working Group, provides a framework and set of actions local governments can take to address climate change through reducing energy consumption, increasing renewable energy, optimizing transportation, increasing sustainable urban development, reducing waste, increasing climate resilience, growing the regional clean economy, and protecting equity and health; and

WHEREAS, many local governments in the COG region have indicated their intent to continue progress toward addressing climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increase environmental sustainability such as through the *We Are Still In* pledge and the *Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED JOINTLY BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE AND THE CLIMATE, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE THAT:

MWAQC and CEEPC recognize local leaders' reaffirmation of their commitment to continue to take actions to address climate change, many actions of which also improve air quality, support the economy, and improve public health; and

MWAQC and CEEPC reaffirm a regional commitment to support local, state, regional, federal and private stakeholders in their efforts to implement actions consistent with the regional Climate & Energy Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, address climate impacts, and help meet their pledges and COG's greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

MWAQC and CEEPC recommend that the COG Board consider and adopt this Resolution at its September meeting.