



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Jim Webb
U.S. Senate
SR-144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4604

*District of Columbia
Bladensburg*
Bowie
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County*

Dear Senator Webb:

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), representing twenty-one local governments in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC, calls on Congress to pass strong climate change legislation. We also urge you to support a robust partnership role for local governments and regional entities in any federal policy designed to protect our country from the harmful consequences of global climate change (please see COG Board Resolution R13-08).

COG believes that reducing greenhouse gases is necessary for ensuring our economic stability, environmental sustainability, and high quality of life. Yet, unless action is taken now, greenhouse gases in the National Capital Region are likely to increase 35 percent by 2030. While the region is actively working on programs to reduce its contribution of greenhouse gases, we call on you to support our efforts – and the efforts of other metropolitan regions around the country – by passing strong federal climate change legislation that is modified to include direct financial support for regional and local climate change reduction activities.

As the Senate prepares to take up climate change legislation this spring -- S. 2191, *America's Climate Security Act* (Warner/Lieberman) -- we respectfully ask for your help in:

- **Supporting federal climate change legislation**, including cap-and-trade mechanisms, to limit greenhouse gas emissions consistent with scientific recommendations.
- **Recognizing the leadership of local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional entities** in implementing programs to reduce greenhouse gases.
- **Ensuring regional entities and localities receive adequate funding to fulfill their role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in responding to climate change consequences.** This involves including regional bodies and local governments in the development and implementation of any carbon allocation or cap-and-trade policies.
- **Providing funding to low income groups to cushion the adverse effects of climate legislation** and providing support for job transition, and “green collar” job training.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Knapp
Chairman, Board of Directors

Enclosure:
R13-08