

A legacy of regional cooperation, a commitment to a vibrant future

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Arlington County

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Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
175 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to urge you and your colleagues to pass strong energy legislation in the 110th Congress. On behalf of our 21 member local governments in the National Capital Region, we believe that forward-looking, comprehensive federal energy legislation is critical to ensuring the security and quality of life of our 5 million residents, thousands of federal government employees, and millions of visitors from around the world who visit this region each year.

Today the COG Board of Directors, on behalf of our membership from the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Virginia, unanimously passed Resolution R64-07 (copy enclosed) supporting four critical provisions of the energy legislation currently being considered by the Congress. The specific provisions we endorse are shown in parentheses:

- **Increasing Fuel economy standards (CAFÉ) to 35 miles per gallon by 2020** (Senate CAFÉ provision, H.R. 6, Title 5, Sec. 501). According to COG's analysis, stronger CAFÉ standards could reduce the regional growth of motor vehicle emissions from 48 percent in a business as usual scenario, to 16 percent.
- **Adopting an Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program** (H.R. 3221, Title 9, Part 9; H.R. 6 Title 2, Subtitle F, Sec. 275). COG supports grants in the amount of \$10 billion over 5 years for smaller units of local governments (e.g. the Senate provision), and consortia of local governments, regardless of size.
- **Setting a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard** (H.R. 3221, Subtitle H, Sec. 9661). COG wants to ensure this provision allows states to set stricter standards, if they so chose.
- **Providing for "Green Collar" Job Training and Workforce Development** (H.R. 3221, Title 1, Sec. 1001/02; H.R. 6, Title 2, Subtitle F, Sec. 277). With one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, a shortage of workers trained in energy efficiency and renewable energy could be a limiting factor in transitioning our region toward a cleaner energy future.

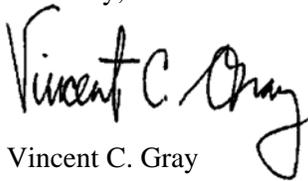
In addition, the Board urges Congressional action on increasing overall energy efficiency standards.

The Board adopted these provisions in recognition that under a business-as-usual scenario, carbon dioxide emissions in the National Capital Region are forecast to *increase* by thirty-five percent (35%) by 2030, when the science indicates a world-wide reduction of up to eighty-percent (80%) is necessary to control global warming by the middle of this century.

In April of this year, COG established a Regional Climate Change Initiative, to implement best practices and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the National Capital Region. While COG member governments are committed to doing everything they can at the local level, the region needs the federal government and the Congress in particular to help us reduce emissions.

Thank you for your leadership in promoting a more secure and cleaner energy future for the National Capital Region and the nation by passing comprehensive federal energy legislation during the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "G".

Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Board of Directors

Enclosures: Resolution R64-07