



## FARM COMMITTEE

### FOOD & AGRICULTURE REGIONAL POLICY FORUM

Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Walter A. Scheiber Board Room  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments,  
777 N. Capitol St., NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

#### MS Teams Meeting

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Meeting ID: 236 370 743 077 4

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Phone conference ID: 756 848 584#

- [Click here for directions](#) to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
- Please bring a government issued ID for the security check-in.
- Please note the meeting will start promptly at 10:00 A.M.

#### AGENDA

##### 9:30 A.M. OPTIONAL NETWORKING TIME

*Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be available*

##### 10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Councilmember Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair*

*Supervisor Laura TeKrony, FARM Vice Chair*

Chair Friedson and Vice Chair TeKrony will welcome FARM members and participants and review the purpose of the forum and how it relates to FARM's mission and forthcoming 2025 to 2026 Strategic Framework for the committee.

**10:15 A.M.      2. PANEL DISCUSSION. FEDERAL POLICY IMPACTS IN THE REGION:  
AGRICULTURE, FARM VIABILITY, AND FOOD PRODUCTION**

*Kate Fitzgerald, [Principal, Fitzgerald Canepa, LLC](#)*

*Gale Livingstone, Owner, [Deep Roots Farm](#), Upper Marlboro, Maryland*

*Charles Green, Deputy Commissioner, [Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)*

*James M. MacDonald, PhD, [Research Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland](#)*

Ms. Fitzgerald will conduct a panel discussion with Ms. Livingstone, Deputy Commissioner Green, and Professor MacDonald to contextualize recent federal changes as these impact farmers, technical assistance, farm viability, and market opportunities for farmers. They will share insights on how tariffs, changes in federal funding and policy may influence decision making, food production and availability, prices, and more. They will also highlight any opportunities they may see for local, state, and regional collaboration to support our food and agricultural economy.

**Recommended Action:** Receive briefing and discuss.

**10:55 A.M.      3. PANEL DISCUSSION. FEDERAL IMPACTS TO FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND  
HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS IN THE REGION**

*Ona Balkus, [Committee Director, DC Council Committee on Health](#)*

*Emma Jagoz, [Owner, Moon Valley Farm](#), Frederick County, MD*

*Salaam Bhatti, [SNAP Director, Food Research and Action Center](#)*

*Sara Beckwith, [Interim Senior Deputy Director, Community Health Administration, DC Department of Health](#)*

Ms. Balkus will facilitate this panel examining how federal actions have impacted initiatives to connect local and regional farmers with schools, food banks, and vulnerable community members. The panel will also provide information on how proposed changes to SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid will affect food insecure residents, the organizations that support them, and state and local governments.

**Recommended Action:** Receive briefing and discuss.

**11:35 A.M.      4. BREAK**

FARM members, speakers, and participants will finalize small group discussion topics for the next agenda item. This will be followed by a short break to get lunch and join a group table.

**The virtual meeting will end at this time.**

**12:00 P.M. 5. WORKING LUNCH: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Ashley Drakeford, [Director of Small Business Development, The Capital Market of 20743](#)

Staff will reconvene all participants at COG and introduce Ms. Drakeford who will facilitate this agenda item. During this time, participants will share questions, experiences, and potential opportunities for response and mitigation to federal changes. Each group will record their key takeaways.

**Recommended Action:** Discuss and summarize highlights.

**12:35 P.M. 6. REPORT OUT, DISCUSSION, AND CLOSING REMARKS**

Ashley Drakeford, *Planning Team Member, The Capital Market*

Kate Fitzgerald, *Principal, Fitzgerald Canepa, LLC*

Ona Balkus, *Director, Committee on Health, Council of the District of Columbia*

Andrew Friedson, *FARM Chair*

Laura TeKrony, *FARM Vice Chair*

Ms. Drakeford will provide an overview of top takeaways and new insights from the small group discussions. Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Balkus will offer brief reflections on their panel and small group conversations before additional discussion and closing remarks from Vice Chair TeKrony and Chair Friedson.

**Recommended Action:** Receive briefing and discuss.

**12:55 P.M. 7. ADJOURN**

Andrew Friedson, *FARM Chair*

Chair Friedson will summarize the next steps and adjourn the meeting.

**The next FARM meeting is Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at COG starting at noon.**

*This will be a joint, hybrid meeting with COG's Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC).*