

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 N. Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING AND A DEDICATED REVENUE
SOURCE FOR VIRGINIA'S WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Whereas, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) supports the attainment of the Chesapeake Bay Program's water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River; and

Whereas, through Resolution R25-97, COG endorsed four basic principles for effectively achieving the Bay Program's goals, namely: (1) the value of a voluntary cooperative approach as opposed to regulatory actions; (2) the importance of equity in allocating responsibilities and costs for Bay restoration; (3) the critical importance of good science to Bay restoration policy and public understanding of progress in the Bay cleanup effort; and (4) the fundamental role of providing local government voice in the policy process; and

Whereas, in adherence with the equity principle, COG has consistently supported the provision of greater federal and state funds to help local governments implement practices that improve water quality; and

Whereas, in February 2004, COG expressed to the governors of Maryland and Virginia its support for the establishment of "a reliable and permanent state funding source" to help provide funds for local governments to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and take other action to improve the Bay; and

Whereas, Maryland subsequently took action to provide such a funding source through the establishment of its Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund supported by a fee on sewage and septic system users; and

Whereas, in January 2006, the Council approved Resolution R3-06, supporting federal legislation that potentially would provide more funds for local government measures to improve the water quality of stormwater discharges; and

Whereas, the outgoing administration of former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner and the new administration of current Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine have proposed that the state provide an additional one-time contribution of \$200 million to the state's Water Quality Improvement Fund to help pay for upgrades to wastewater plants in the Bay watershed; and

Whereas, a number of bills have been introduced in the 2006 Virginia General Assembly session to provide a dedicated and more stable funding source for the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The Chair of the Board transmit a letter to the chairs of the Senate and House budget committees in the Virginia General Assembly, with copies to the area's General Assembly

members, supporting the addition of \$200 million to the Water Quality Improvement Fund, as proposed, and further supporting legislation to establish a fair and reliable revenue source for this important fund.