

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

**RESOLUTION CREATING A CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE
COG BOARD AND CHARGING THE COMMITTEE WITH DEVELOPING AND COORDINATING AN
ARRANGEMENT TO PROVIDE AREA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH MORE INFLUENCE IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY BY THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments ("Council") has endorsed the overall restoration goals of the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and supported the subsequent nutrient reduction policies of the 1992 Amendments to the Bay Agreement, as delineated in COG Resolution R37-92 adopted on October 14, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Council established the principles of voluntary status, equity, good science and voice as guidelines for local participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program, as delineated in COG Resolution R25-97 adopted on July 9, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Council's Board of Directors created the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Chesapeake Bay Program in May 1998 to review existing Board policy on the Bay Program, address emerging issues and make recommendations for further Board action; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee has fulfilled its charge and presented its findings in the form of a report to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee has found that there are a number of emerging Bay Program issues with potentially major consequences for local governments in the metropolitan Washington region, including the development of an upper limit on nutrient pollution loads to the Chesapeake Bay, the possibility that the current goal of reducing nutrients by 40 percent may not be sufficient to meet living resource goals, the potential for altering the voluntary nature of the Bay Program, and accounting for changes in the nutrients deposited by air; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee also has found that there are a number of questions about the equity of the current set of nutrient reduction requirements for each of the Bay's major tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee has concluded that enhanced technical collaboration between the Council and the Chesapeake Bay Program will serve both parties mutual interests; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee also has concluded that area elected officials need to play a more active role in determining the future of these issues, but that the Bay Program lacks an effective mechanism for allowing local government elected officials to play such an active role in policy development,

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

1. **The four policy principles adopted by the Board in 1997 are hereby reaffirmed as the basis for COG policy regarding the Chesapeake Bay Program;**

2. **A standing committee of the Board, the "Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee," be created and charged with recommending, advocating, and coordinating Bay Program policy on behalf of COG members, as well as educating the COG membership about the Bay Program;**
3. **The new Committee shall develop and coordinate an effective arrangement with the Bay Program to ensure that local governments in the Washington metropolitan region have substantial influence in the development of future Bay Program policies and maintain active involvement at the technical level; and**
4. **The new Committee shall provide regular updates to the Board and prepare an annual report on its activities for the year and recommendations for the future.**
5. **Until the members of the Committee are formally appointed, the current Ad Hoc Subcommittee shall act as the Board's adviser on Chesapeake Bay Program issues.**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at its meeting of

September 9, 1998

Doreen M. Smith

Clerk to the Board of Directors