



March 12, 2025

Members of the National Capital Region Congressional Delegation:

RE: Federal Spending Bill – Impacts to the National Capital Region

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to urge you not to support the federal spending bill currently making its way through Congress. If passed at FY2024 spending levels, we will see an enormous and immediate negative impact on the District of Columbia, as well as its neighboring jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia, affecting nearly six million residents in total.

Significant reductions to the federal workforce being implemented by the current Administration are already having a major impact on our region, which will only be compounded by the federal spending bill. This bill, which proposes to reduce the District of Columbia's already congressionally approved Fiscal 2025 budget by \$1 billion, will have immediate harmful effects on our public safety, our schools, our water, and our transportation system including the Metro system essential to supporting federal workers returning to the office.

DC Water is also facing \$51 million in immediate cuts that would endanger national security and public health of the nation's capital. This will impact critical investments necessary to provide safe, reliable drinking water and sewer services to federal buildings including the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon, and two international airports.

As you are all aware, the National Capital Region has an interconnected transit network, shared natural resources, and public safety agencies that operate together daily to keep us safe. Taking funding away from the District of Columbia and our utilities negatively impacts all of our residents and will have devastating impacts at the local, state, and federal level.

We are hopeful that congressional leaders can remedy this situation before causing serious harm. As the regional association representing the 24 local governments in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland, we remain committed to working with Congress and the Administration to shape a thriving National Capital Region.

Please contact our Executive Director Clark Mercer at (202)962-3260 or cmercerc@mwkog.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rodney Lusk'.

Rodney Lusk
COG Board Chair
Fairfax County Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Reuben Collins'.

Reuben Collins
COG Board Vice Chair
Charles County Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Allen'.

Charles Allen
COG Board Vice Chair
District of Columbia Council