

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) TO SUPPORT A WASHINGTON REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL FOOD VALUE CHAIN COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) plays an important role in promoting agriculture and green infrastructure programs throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a valuable and substantial portion of the region's green infrastructure and COG has a continued interest in promoting and demonstrating agriculture's contribution to the regional economy through farm products, farm markets, farm services and other agri-business interests; and

WHEREAS, COG is a recognized leader working in partnership with governmental organizations and environmental groups to promote green infrastructure programs, including working lands (farms), and to disseminate knowledge of the value of these businesses to its members and citizens in the region; and

WHEREAS, COG, through its Regional Agricultural Workgroup and National Capital Farms web site, assists its members and their agricultural programs to protect the region's agricultural business economy and bolster our local food supply through emphasizing the importance of protecting our local food supply and regional agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, COG is working with the USDA and regional foundations to support regional sustainable agriculture to better meet the region's food needs; and

WHEREAS, a Food System Value Chain Coordinator position will strengthen relationships among farm producers, distributors and consumers by developing a regional food system to support economic, social, and environmental benefits that accrue to communities within a regional food system, and ensuring that the array of public and private activities are coordinated in a strategic manner.

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

The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the USDA in the amount not to exceed \$75,000 for two years beginning in federal fiscal year 2016, for the purposes of supporting a Food System Value Chain Coordinator position at COG and to establish an advisory committee for the program. The initial project duration is two years from the receipt of funding. Funding from private foundation sources will match the federal funds at minimum one to one. Support from COG is provided through in-kind services (office space, staff support, etc.); no COG cash match is required.

***I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the
COG Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on September 9, 2015.***

***Monica Beyrouti
Clerk to the Board of Directors***