



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 08-21

PATRON: G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director
DATE: April 24, 2008

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT CLIMATE AND ENERGY-RELATED COOPERATIVE EFFORTS FOLLOWING THE FIRST U.S.-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCILS

WHEREAS, there is consensus among the world's leading scientists and research organizations that climate change is occurring with substantial anthropogenic origins and influences; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) recognized (Resolution No. 08-08) the findings of the 2007 *Virginia Energy Plan*, which noted that "carbon dioxide emissions rose in Virginia by approximately 34 percent from 1990 to 2004, a rate that is nearly twice the national average," and that continued trends will negatively affect the health and environment of Northern Virginia residents; and

WHEREAS, NVRC was instrumental in the organization and implementation of the "First U.S.-European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils," hosted in Alexandria, Virginia, April 10-11, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the "First U.S.-European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils" resulted in a non-binding Declaration (attached) calling for long-term, mutually beneficial research, exchanges of lessons and best practices climate and sustainable energy policies among U.S. and European regional councils; and

WHEREAS, the participants of the conference and signatories to the Declaration recognize the economic, environmental and social benefits of joint peer-to-peer technical and policy exchanges and research among U.S. and European metropolitan regional councils; and

WHEREAS, the European Union is requesting proposals to support projects aiming to create/enhance transatlantic civil society networks, establish joint positions on issues of common concern in the E.U. and U.S., and offer analyses and make recommendations to EU and U.S. governments in the areas of environmental dialogue; and

WHEREAS, to strengthen and support the follow-up of the "First U.S.-European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils" and to complement the leadership efforts by NVRC in connection with the conference, staff proposes to work with the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Councils (METREX) and its affiliated organizations in the development of a transatlantic environmental dialogue that aims to foster the exchange of views and information, improve awareness of related E.U. and U.S. policies and positions, and identify areas for potential closer transatlantic cooperation focusing specifically on the full range of respective policies to contribute to

climate change: mitigation, adaptation, financing, and technology transfer;

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that NVRC will aid in the development of this proposal to the European Union and will form and facilitate a workgroup consisting of representatives from local, state, regional, federal and European governments, colleges and universities, and interested residents to assist in the implementation of this proposal upon its review and approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NVRC will aid in the execution and implementation of this proposal, which has the potential to continue over subsequent fiscal years;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorizes the Executive Director to work with the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Councils in the development of a grant proposal requesting Euro 200,000 (\$300,000) to support the follow-up to the "First U.S.-European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils" in general and the Declaration in particular.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on April 24, 2008.

G. Mark Gibb, Certifying Officer