



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

October 28, 2016

Lyle D. Wray, Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments  
241 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Establishment of a Regional Economic Development District (REDD)

Dear Mr. Wray:

Thank you for your letter dated July 12, 2016 requesting approval from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (CTOPM) for the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to establish a Regional Economic Development District (REDD) comprising the 38 municipalities of the Capitol Planning Region.

With this request, CRCOG is seeking to become the entity authorized to prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Capitol Planning Region. In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria for establishing a REDD under Section 32-741 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) (2016 Supplement), I understand that two of the region's other eligible entities – MetroHartford Alliance and Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce – also support CRCOG's request.

Therefore, this letter constitutes CTOPM's approval for CRCOG to establish a REDD. Once CRCOG has received similar approvals from the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (CTDECD) and the Assistant Secretary of Economic Development of the United States Department of Commerce (USED A), CRCOG may proceed to prepare and adopt a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and submit it to CTDECD and CTOPM for approval under CGS Section 32-742.

Once CRCOG has fulfilled the above requirements for CGS Section 32-741 and Section 32-742, it may then apply through CTDECD for designation by the Governor as a Connecticut Economic Development District (CT-EDD), in accordance with CGS Section 32-743(b). If designated by the Governor as a CT-EDD, CRCOG may also request USED A designation as a federal Economic Development District, presuming USED A also approved the CEDS.

Finally, I understand that CTDECD will be taking appropriate steps to un-designate the Central Connecticut EDD when its current CEDS expires, and that CTDECD will notify USED A of the same.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Pafford at (860) 418-6412 or [Matthew.Pafford@ct.gov](mailto:Matthew.Pafford@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Barnes".

Benjamin Barnes, Secretary

Cc: Catherine H. Smith, CTDECD



**Catherine H. Smith**  
Commissioner

October 31, 2016

Department of Economic and  
Community Development

**Connecticut**  
*still revolutionary*

Mr. Lyle Wray  
Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments  
241 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Approval of the Capitol Region Council of Governments as a Regional Economic Development District

Dear Mr. Wray:

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 2016 requesting that the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic Development's (DECD) approve the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) as a Regional Economic Development District (REDD) for the thirty-eight (38) town Capitol Planning Region.

CRCOG is a Council of Government, established under the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) by Sec. 4-124i to 4-124p and 8-31 to 8-37a. As a duly authorized Council, CRCOG is eligible to serve as a REDD for the region.

CRCOG was formed to implement regional programs for the benefit of the towns and the region. CRCOG promotes and coordinates regional transportation policies and implements regional programs to assist the municipalities and the region. CRCOG advances regional needs including planning and land use, job creation and retention, economic development and housing development throughout the region.

DECD hereby approves CRCOG as the REDD for the 38 municipalities located within the CRCOG boundaries.

As you move forward, DECD is available to assist you when you apply for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) approval and Economic Development District (EDD) designation. The first step in the approval process for CRCOG to create and file a new 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document that also includes the additional the towns added to the CRCOG as a result of Sec. 16a-4 of the C.G.S. This should be done once the current CEDS expires.

Upon approval of the CEDS by DECD and the Office of Policy and Management, CRCOG may then submit the CEDS to the federal Department of Commerce, U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) and apply for review and approval. CRCOG must also follow established USED A and CT policy and annually update the CEDS document.

Thank you for your interest. DECD will keep you informed of new developments.

Sincerely,  
**Tim Sullivan**, Deputy Commissioner

For Catherine H. Smith, Commissioner

Catherine H. Smith

Commissioner

cc: Tim Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner, DECD  
Bart Kollen, Deputy Commissioner, DECD  
Secretary Ben Barnes, Office of Policy & Management

July 12, 2016

Catherine Smith, Commissioner  
Department of Economic and Community Development  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Capitol Region Council of Governments Regional Economic Development District

Dear Commissioner Smith,

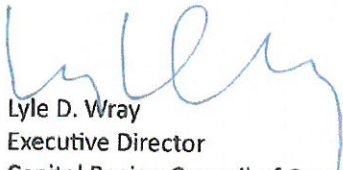
I am writing to you to request that the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), comprising Hartford and 37 surrounding municipalities, be recognized as a Regional Economic Development District (REDD) under Connecticut General Statutes 32-741. As one of the state's nine regional Councils of Governments (COG), CRCOG is eligible to become a REDD as per C.G.S 32-741, section a.5. CRCOG further requests that the REDD boundary encompass all 38 municipalities in the region to meet the requirement of C.G.S 32-741 section B, requiring that REDDs "encompass one or more planning regions".

Over the past year CRCOG has been working with its 38 municipalities and the MetroHartford Alliance (who previously coordinated regional economic development for the region) to develop a coordinated effort to regional economic development planning aligned with the current CRCOG boundary. Staff from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), DECD, the Office of Policy and Management, and CRCOG have discussed procedures for aligning economic development district boundaries with COG boundaries at both the state and federal levels. These agencies have jointly come to the conclusion that becoming a REDD is a necessary first step.

Following approval of the REDD designation, CRCOG will apply to the EDA for grant funding to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the 38 town region. This will unify goals and strategies that were formerly contained in three different CEDS documents and allow CRCOG to better coordinate economic development with land-use, transportation, and hazard mitigation planning efforts.

CRCOG hereby formally requests recognition as a REDD. On June 20, 2016, our Policy Board passed a resolution (see attached) authorizing CRCOG to seek this recognition and affirming its intention to develop a CEDS for the region. Thank you for your assistance with this process.

Respectfully,



Lyle D. Wray  
Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments

C: Secretary Benjamin Barnes, Office of Policy and Management  
Dan Morley, Assistant Division Director, Office of Policy and Management  
Ned Moore, Department of Community and Economic Development