

September \_\_, 2019

John Fleming, M.D.  
U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary John Fleming,

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Economic Development District, comprising the City of Hartford and 37 surrounding municipalities. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the region continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS). Designation will provide CRCOG and its partners with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy.

CRCOG has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating planning in the Region. They already host the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning purposes, coordinate land-use planning, and run a successful municipal services program that includes a cooperative purchasing council. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Hartford Metropolitan Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,