



GREATER PORTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

February 9, 2018

Re: Nomination request for GPCOG Regional Voice Committee

GPCOG's new Strategic Plan was developed with extensive member input, including five "Shape the Region" workshops. The number one priority that emerged from our members was the need to organize our regional voice to express our shared priorities. Our members are looking for pragmatic, non-partisan policy solutions to build a stronger economy, ensure safe transportation and reliable infrastructure, and protect our natural resources and beauty.

In order for our region to thrive and have adequate resources, we need to be organized to clearly articulate what matters most for our future. To do this work, we are forming a new advocacy committee.

Here's how it will work: The new "Regional Voice Committee" will frame an annual policy agenda for the region to be adopted by our General Assembly and recommend specific policy solutions to the GPCOG Executive Committee that will be carried into the policy arena by our staff, our members and our citizens. This work will be used to educate opinion leaders and policymakers in Augusta and in Washington, D.C.

In 2018, our goal is to share our regional priorities with the candidates for Governor in a short briefing book and through a candidates forum in the fall.

Today we are inviting you to work with your Council/Select Board to nominate someone for membership on the Committee. Our Executive Committee will make final appointments to the Committee. Since space is limited and the Executive Committee is committed to ensuring that our diversity as an organization is balanced and reflected in the committee membership, not every nominee will be appointed.

We expect the committee to meet quarterly at GPCOG. Meetings are expected to be 90 minutes long. We will schedule the regular day and time to accommodate as many members as possible. While your community is welcome to nominate anyone you feel is best suited to represent your community's interests, we encourage nominees who are elected officials, supportive of regional outcomes that serve all our municipalities' needs, and will bring a spirit of collaboration and compromise to the table.

Thank you in advance for sharing this request with your full Council/Board and providing us with your community's nominee no later than March 15, 2018. We expect the committee to be selected soon thereafter and to begin work as soon as it is appointed.

If you have questions or need any further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. And thank you again for your continuing support of GPCOG as we expand the ways in which our organization brings greater value to your municipality.

All the best,

Kristina Egan