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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

STATE OF THE STATE

GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

The State House
Annapolis, Maryland
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Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Lieutenant Governor Brown; Treasurer Kopp, Comptroller Franchot; Attorney General Gansler; Attorney General Curran; colleagues in city and county government; men and women of the Maryland General Assembly; Former Governors Mandel and Glendening; Members of the Cabinet; Congressman Kratovil, Congressman Ruppertsberger, Katie O'Malley; my fellow citizens:

I'd like to ask that all of us observe a moment of silence in honor of the brave Marylanders who we've lost over the course of this last year fighting for our country abroad in Iraq and in Afghanistan, . . . and also for the people of Haiti who are recovering from that devastating earthquake.¹



We have said goodbye to a number of great Marylanders over the course of this last year. Just last week, we said goodbye to former First Lady Pat Hughes, a woman of grace and class and strength. And earlier this morning, I attended the funeral of the great Mac Mathias, a man who through thirty years of noble service epitomized not only what it means to be a United States Senator, but also epitomized what it means to be a citizen.

¹ Last week, the Maryland National Guard [sent additional troops](#) and supplies to Haiti to aid with the relief effort. Also, University of Maryland Shock Trauma [recently sent](#) a 22-person medical team to assist with the overwhelming medical needs in Haiti.

INTRODUCTION

It is a true honor to join you here, once again, in this historic building – the oldest State Capitol in the United States of America – where Marylanders have come together, year after year, to renew our democracy and to move our State forward. In this place of the people’s will, we express our differences of opinion mindful of the fact that all of us, gathered here to serve, act on behalf of Maryland, and there is only One Maryland.



We are here because we care about people – all people. And to safeguard our children’s future, we are committed to the work of justice, security, job creation, environmental sustainability, and fiscal responsibility, understanding that progress for one requires progress for all.

In times of great adversity, we don’t make excuses – we make progress.² We set aside partisanship and embrace the power of citizenship, guided by the values that unite us: our belief in the dignity of every individual; our belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good; our understanding that there is a unity to spirit and to matter, that one person can make a difference, each of us must try, and God loves even the partial victories.

Today I’d like to talk with you about how we can help our businesses, large and small, to create jobs, to save jobs, and to expand opportunity. I’d like to talk with you about the tough, but right, choices we must make together; and about the importance of being fiscally responsible so that we can protect homeownership and defend the hard-won progress of the hardworking Maryland families we serve.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The choices we’ve made together as One Maryland over these past three years have allowed us to weather this severe economic storm better than most states.

² This progress includes the single largest three year reduction in statewide homicides since the 1970s, a [best-in-America ranking from Education Week magazine](#) for our public schools, and 5,700 jobs that will be coming to the Port of Baltimore through a [new partnership](#) with Ports America.

We have used the pressure of shrinking revenues to create higher performance,³ stronger connections,⁴ smarter interventions,⁵ and more intelligent standards of care.⁶ The ongoing financial crisis has called upon us to re-imagine what a government can do well, and to redesign better ways to serve and protect the people of Maryland as we move forward.⁷

But just as families and businesses have seen their incomes decline, so too have state revenues. In fact, it has been the steepest decline across the 50 states in modern history.

Every year, this Administration has submitted – and you have passed – a state budget that is not only balanced, but a budget that has been introduced, at the outset, as within the limits of spending affordability guidelines.⁸



For the first time in more than 40 years, the budget I propose to you this year calls for lower general fund spending than four years ago and it will bring total spending cuts and reductions this term to \$5.6 billion.⁹

We have chosen to be fiscally responsible; indeed, progress is only possible with fiscal responsibility.

That's why, Maryland is one of only seven states in America that continues to retain a Triple A Bond Rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility certified by all three major rating agencies.¹⁰

³ For example, through better intelligence, entrance security, contraband targeting and investment in stab-proof vests, the Department of Corrections has increased contraband cell phone seizures by 124% and reduced serious assaults on staff by 50% (including zero fatalities), all while reducing overtime by 22% (FY07-FY09).

⁴ The State's Public Safety Dashboard connects law enforcement officers and government users in more than 100 agencies to all state crime data and receives 25,000 to 40,000 hits a day. This year, front line workers at the Department of Human Resources and Department of Juvenile Services will be sharing live data through a new Child Safety Net Dashboard.

⁵ To reduce violence in and out of Maryland correctional facilities, the O'Malley-Brown Administration worked with Maryland's Congressional delegation to advance cell-phone jamming technology in correctional institutions. Maryland was also one of the first states in the nation to train and use a K-9 unit in an effort to detect cell phones in correctional facilities.

⁶ For example, state government has transitioned to a [recovery-oriented system](#) of substance abuse treatment, expanded [evidence-based practices](#) for children and families, and shifted to a community-based approach for the treatment of some of Maryland's most vulnerable [citizens](#). Additionally, the O'Malley-Brown Administration is transitioning from institutional-based care to home-based care for [Maryland seniors](#).

⁷ Through the [Service Access and Information Link](#) (SAIL), Marylanders can submit applications online for temporary cash assistance, supplemental food assistance (food stamps), Medicaid, and other available social services. Through Maryland's [Problem Solver](#) website, citizens have easy access to critical resources such as childcare assistance, utility payment assistance and employment services. The Problem Solver website had 66,711 hits in 2009.

⁸ The O'Malley-Brown Administration is the first in Maryland history to submit a budget with negative spending affordability growth. In the two fiscal years prior to the current administration the spending affordability limit was exceeded.

⁹ The O'Malley-Brown Administration has reduced General Fund spending by 3.2%. Over the prior four years, the previous administration increased General Fund spending by 35%. This year's budget proposal would bring total position reductions to 3,500. Maryland has America's 10th smallest per-capita government workforce.

¹⁰ The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made it a priority to strive to maintain the State's Triple A Bond rating. One of many reasons that Maryland has continued to earn this rating is that the Rainy Day fund has been maintained at 5% of General Fund

As a result of the choices we've made in the face of adversity, the state of our State is stronger than most,¹¹ and in areas like public education, it is stronger than every other state in the union.¹²

OUR ECONOMY

But this national economic downturn – the worst since the Great Depression – has dealt crushing blows of joblessness, home foreclosure and displacement to tens of thousands of Maryland families.

Although fourth quarter economic growth was the strongest our country has seen in six years, the storm is not over.

Wall Street has been stabilized but Main Street still suffers. Every Maryland family has been hit in some way: neighbors who still can't find work; fellow citizens tossing and turning all night, worried about how they'll afford this month's heating bill or last month's mortgage or rent; family-owned businesses and family farms¹³ struggling just to survive; children who go to bed hungry, who wake up hungry, who go to school hungry.¹⁴



I want to share with you a brief excerpt from a letter not unlike the letters that all of you are receiving yourselves. This one is from a woman named “Martha”¹⁵ who writes:

“...[T]imes are hard and things are tight... I am living on the edge, my rent for my apartment is one month behind, my phone and internet service is scheduled to be cut off. I have been trying to find employment and am 53 years old. I never thought that I would be going through this at this point in my life.”

revenues. Standard and Poor's has said Maryland “*pro-actively responded to [its] recent structural [budget imbalance](#).*” Fitch Ratings has credited Maryland's “*prompt and repeated action*.”

¹¹ Last year, Maryland's rate of job change was better than all but four other States.

¹² In January, *Education Week* magazine ranked Maryland public schools #1 best in America for the second year in a row. Maryland high schools are ranked #1 in America by the College Board as having the [best Advanced Placement scores](#) and participation rate in the nation. And according to the most recent report, Maryland's pre-K program is [ranked among the best in America](#) by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

¹³ Through partnerships with Maryland's Congressional delegation and other Northeast states, the O'Malley-Brown Administration successfully secured the inclusion of up to \$2.475 million in emergency aid for Maryland dairy farmers in the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill through the new Dairy Emergency Loss Assistance Payment program (DELAP) which will allow for loan relief and increased MILC payments.

¹⁴ The O'Malley-Brown Administration has set the goal of [eliminating childhood hunger](#) by 2015 in Maryland.

¹⁵ Name has been changed out of respect for privacy.

In every part of our State, I meet good people who have worked hard all their lives, only to watch their piece of the American dream slip away due to forces seemingly beyond their control,...who want only the opportunity to work, and the freedom to build a better life for themselves and for their children.

PROTECTING HOMEOWNERSHIP

It has been said that the most powerful place in the world is the family home.¹⁶ Over these last difficult years, far too much of that power has been taken from us. When just one Marylander has to look their child in the eyes and tell them “*the mortgage company told us we have to move,*” it affects all of us. When a house is boarded up and left vacant, it impacts entire neighborhoods,¹⁷ entire communities, entire towns, entire cities, entire counties, entire states.

Because of your work and also because of the persistence of non-profit housing counselors and *pro bono* lawyers,¹⁸ many homes in Maryland have been saved,¹⁹ but many more have been lost in the relentless, grinding, home-destroying machinery of national mortgage companies.^{20 21} If they can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, shouldn't they be able to pick up the phone before throwing a family out of their home?



I need your help. The hardworking people of Maryland need your help. Families of Maryland need your help. I need you to stand up for homeowners in Maryland and put them on an equal footing with these faceless giants. I need you to pass legislation this year that forces mortgage companies to come to the settlement table before they can throw another family out on the street.²²

¹⁶ The poet John O'Donohue writes: “*There are many powerful places in the world,...Yet the most powerful place of all,... is the family home.*”

¹⁷ In FY09, the State invested \$19 million to stabilize distressed neighborhoods.

¹⁸ Under Chief Judge Bell's leadership, the State has recruited 981 *pro bono* attorneys to assist vulnerable families.

¹⁹ Since its inception, the [HOPE Network](#) has counseled 32,592 people and helped 9,812 people save their homes.

²⁰ In a November 2009 report by NeighborWorks, Maryland was recognized as one of the [Top 5 States](#) for servicing the most clients through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Program. The *Washington Post* on the 2008 foreclosure legislation package: “*Taken together, Maryland's bills are among the most sweeping in the country*” (April 3, 2008).

²¹ In 2009 DLLR entered into settlement agreements requiring unscrupulous financial institutions to make more than \$2.9 million in refunds to consumers – roughly double the number of consumer refunds in 2008.

²² [SB 276 - Real Property - Residential Property Foreclosure Procedures - Foreclosure Mediation](#)

CREATING JOBS

But it is not enough to defend, we must also advance. There is no government program that is as important or as empowering as a job. Therefore, progress requires that we focus the energies of this session on three primary actions: creating jobs, saving jobs, and protecting jobs.²³

Last week, President Obama rightly said, *“the true engine of job creation in this country will always be America’s businesses. But government can create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers.”*²⁴

To rebuild and restore our economy, we must help our businesses create and save jobs. Jobs from innovation in science, security, and discovery. Jobs of noble and valuable service. Jobs that create and rebuild our vital connections of travel, trade, and business. Jobs that revitalize and restore our environment. Jobs in teaching, jobs in manufacturing, jobs in healing – they all matter.

This month we concluded a nation-leading public/private partnership at the Port of Baltimore that will create 5,700 new jobs in construction and port operations; and just last week General Motors announced that it will build its new generation of electric hybrid motors here in Maryland, in Baltimore County – creating new green manufacturing jobs and new opportunities.²⁵ This job-creating partnership was only possible because of the investments of the critically important American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, along with the strong actions of your state and the strong actions of Baltimore County and the leadership of Jim Smith, and businesses, and labor – all working together.



And together, we can and we must do more.

That’s why, this year I’m asking for your help to create a \$3,000 tax credit for every person hired off of Maryland’s unemployment rolls.^{26 27}

²³ The O’Malley-Brown Administration has set the goal of creating, saving, or placing our fellow citizens into 250,000 growth sector jobs by the end of 2012.

²⁴ From the State of the Union address, January 27, 2010.

²⁵ Construction on [GM’s new high-volume electric drive manufacturing facilities](#) and retention of next generation hybrid transmission production is estimated to save 35 jobs, directly create 200 new jobs, and to create 140 indirect jobs and 490 induced jobs.

²⁶ The proposed Job Creation Tax Credit ([HB 92](#)) would provide businesses a \$3,000 per employee tax credit for every unemployed Marylander they hire. It will be capped at \$20 million and will extend for one year.

²⁷ This initiative builds on the progress of Maryland’s One-Stop Centers, which have helped place more than 62,000 Marylanders in jobs in the past year.

And because small businesses create nearly two out of three jobs in Maryland, I'm also asking you to pass emergency legislation to provide \$83 million of relief from rapidly escalating Unemployment Insurance Premiums.²⁸

What's more, because small business lending has virtually dried up in the course of this national economic downturn, I'm asking for your support to create a new small business loan guaranty program, as we simplify the application process so that we can create and improve the conditions necessary to allow small businesses to borrow the dollars they need for expansion, to create and to save jobs.²⁹



Here in Maryland, thanks to President Obama's leadership and Maryland's effectiveness, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped us not only to protect public safety, public education, and public health, but it has also allowed us to create or save 19,000 jobs.³⁰ And in the year

ahead, Recovery Act reinvestment projects will continue to create and save thousands and thousands of greatly needed construction jobs in our State, rebuilding our State.³¹

Working with private businesses in our construction trades,³² I'm asking you to create jobs through major investments in this year's proposed capital budget³³ – rebuilding schools, rebuilding roads and water infrastructure, rebuilding community colleges, and science labs; important work that will support over 20,000 construction jobs in Maryland next year.³⁴

I am also asking you to advance smarter growth through better mass transit with important long-term investments like the Purple Line and Red Line, which will create jobs.³⁵

²⁸ [HB 91](#) is emergency legislation that would provide immediate relief to Maryland small businesses.

²⁹ To facilitate small business lending through an expedited process while maintaining reasonable credit quality, Maryland will use the Maryland Industrial Financing Authority (MIDFA) to create a Certified Lender's program which would allow banks to apply up to a \$50,000 MIDFA guaranty, as well as a Rapid Response Program which would provide a 48 hour approval turnaround to bank underwriting on certain credit applications.

³⁰ [Maryland is ranked #1](#) in the ways the state government tracks and accounts for the effective expenditure of federal [Recovery and Reinvestment dollars](#). In the most recently reported quarter, these dollars have allowed Maryland to create and save 19,633 jobs – directly, indirectly and induced.

³¹ The State was recently granted nearly \$70 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to begin major projects to improve passenger rail for Amtrak and MARC Commuter passengers traveling in the Northeast Corridor as part of President Obama's allocation of \$8 billion nationwide for the ARRA High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program.

³² In the current year 16% of construction jobs in Maryland are attributable to state-funded projects.

³³ Last week, the state introduced its new [interactive map](#) for the FY11 Capital Budget.

³⁴ Including \$250 million for school construction and \$115 million for wastewater projects.

³⁵ The O'Malley-Brown Administration has set the goal of doubling public transportation ridership by 2020.

Working with imaginative redevelopers and green developers, I'm asking you to revitalize our historic downtowns and Main Streets – along with new green neighborhoods³⁶ – by passing a new Sustainable Communities Tax Credit. Building on the success of the Heritage Tax Credits, we know that we can leverage tens of millions of dollars in private investment to create hundreds of jobs now, and thousands moving forward.³⁷

Thanks to Lt. Governor Brown's leadership from the first days of this Administration – and the advocacy of Senator Mikulski and our entire Congressional delegation – 60,000 additional jobs are coming to Maryland through BRAC: the Base Realignment and Closure process.

We need to leverage the enormous job-creating potential of more than 50 federal facilities in Maryland,³⁸ which along with our businesses and institutions of science, discovery, and higher learning and healing, are the backbone of Maryland's Innovation Economy: life sciences, bio-tech,³⁹ high-tech, clean-tech, green tech,⁴⁰ Cyber Security.⁴¹ Our work is to leverage these Innovation Assets to create more jobs and more opportunities for more Maryland families.⁴²



With the enormous potential of Maryland's Innovation Economy, we are seeking to reinvigorate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education in every part of our State; to reengage our students with environmental and financial literacy; and to create in our workforce the "Skills2Compete"⁴³ through a coordinated statewide strategy of promoting skills training, apprenticeships, and post-secondary education.⁴⁴

³⁶ Such as St. Charles, Maryland, the [most comprehensive smart green community development project in the United States today](#). The project could create as many as 20,000 green jobs in Maryland.

³⁷ [SB 285](#) would build upon the Heritage Communities Tax Credit, which supported 15,000 jobs by making Main Streets, Maple Streets, and TOD projects eligible for the credit (in addition to historic properties). There would be an additional incentive for buildings that follow LEED gold standards.

³⁸ This year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration launched a Federal Facilities Task Force to help businesses leverage opportunities and resources from federal facilities.

³⁹ Maryland has the 2nd largest per-capita cluster of bioscience companies, representing 8% of the industry, and the highest percentage of Ph.D. engineers and scientists in the U.S. The O'Malley-Brown Administration launched BIO 2020, a \$1.3 billion investment to grow Maryland's bioscience industry, including over \$42 million over three years for stem cell research, \$18 million over three years for a Biotechnology Tax Credit, and \$4.8 million in nanobiotechnology research.

⁴⁰ The O'Malley-Brown Administration set the goal of creating, saving, and placing Marylanders in 100,000 green jobs by 2015.

⁴¹ The State's [cyber security strategy](#) is estimated to bring tens of thousands of jobs to Maryland.

⁴² In 2009, 58 new business enterprises decided to locate in Maryland while an additional 240 expanded their existing businesses. As a result, 6,465 jobs are expected to be created and/or saved.

⁴³ The O'Malley-Brown Administration is launching an initiative called Skills2Compete to promote and expand access to skills training, apprenticeships and post-secondary education

⁴⁴ The O'Malley-Brown Administration [set the goal](#) of improving student achievement and school, college, and career readiness in Maryland 25% by 2015. In addition, the Administration set the goal of improving the marketable skills of Maryland's adult workforce

And because Maryland's greatest economic asset is our highly educated and highly skilled workforce, I am asking you to invest, once again, in the children of Maryland with a record level of funding for K-12 Education.⁴⁵



NOT BY CHANCE, BY CHOICE

Progress does not happen by itself, it is the product of choices.

Think about it,...



It is not by chance but by choice that we now do more than most every other state to support Veterans upon their return home from service in Iraq or Afghanistan.⁴⁶

It is not by chance but by choice that for the second year in a row, we have created the #1 ranked, best public school system in the United States of America.⁴⁷

It is not by chance but by choice that – alone among the 50 states – we together have made college more

20% by 2012.

⁴⁵ The FY11 budget proposal includes: \$5.7 billion for public education – amounting to an increase of \$1.2 billion over four years.

⁴⁶ The recently launched [Maryland's Commitment to Veterans](#) is an outreach and referral initiative designed to serve those that have served our country by connecting veterans to behavioral health services in a timely manner.

⁴⁷ *Education Week* magazine ranks Maryland schools as #1 in America. Last year, Maryland elementary and middle schools students achieved their highest MSA scores since testing began in 2003.

affordable for more Maryland families by going four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition for Maryland residents.⁴⁸

It is not by chance but by choice that together with courageous police officers throughout law enforcement, we have been able to drive violent crime in Maryland down to its lowest levels since 1987⁴⁹ – including the steepest three-year reduction in homicides since the 1970s, and a 46% reduction in juvenile homicides over the same period of time.⁵⁰

It is not by chance but by choice that the Port of Baltimore, once a laughingstock of failed homeland security efforts, now receives near-perfect security reviews from the United States Coast Guard.^{51 52}

It is not by chance, but by choice that 146,000 more Marylanders today have health insurance and 65,000 of them are children.⁵³



It is not by chance but by choice that we have increased opportunities for women- and minority-owned businesses to record levels in our State.⁵⁴

It is not by chance, but by choice that four rivers⁵⁵ of the Chesapeake Bay⁵⁶ are now getting healthier every year rather than sicker;⁵⁷ that we have preserved five and half times the amount of

⁴⁸ Because of the tuition freeze, Maryland's public university system is no longer the 6th most expensive in America – it is projected to fall to 21st this fiscal year. Five of Maryland's public colleges made *Kiplinger Magazine's* 2010 "[Best Values in Public Colleges](#):" UMD–College Park was the 8th best value, up from 28th in 2007 and St. Mary's College, Salisbury University, Towson University and – for the first time – UMD–Baltimore County also made the list.

⁴⁹ The O'Malley-Brown Administration set the goal of reducing violent crime in Maryland by 10% each year.

⁵⁰ Source: Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, non-custodial homicides. Between 2008 and 2009, Prince George's County achieved a 45% reduction in juvenile homicides and Baltimore City achieved a 53% reduction.

⁵¹ Three years ago the Port received a failing grade from the Coast Guard. In the latest safety review, the results of the exam were called 'superlative' by the U.S. Coast Guard.

⁵² The O'Malley-Brown Administration consolidated disparate initiatives and resources into a unified effort to build a statewide radio system, computer-aided dispatch/records management (CAD/RMS), and GIS platform to improve information sharing and disaster preparedness. The O'Malley-Brown Administration set the goal of making Maryland a national leader in homeland security preparedness by the end of 2012.

⁵³ The O'Malley-Brown Administration [set the goals](#) of reducing infant mortality 10% by the end of 2012, expanding access to substance abuse services in Maryland by 25% by the end of 2012, and establishing the best-in-the-nation health information exchange of electronic health records adoption by the end of 2012.

⁵⁴ Maryland has the most ambitious goal in America for Minority Business Enterprise. Last year, the Maryland state government achieved [22% participation](#). Contract awards to Minority Business Enterprises reached \$1.65 billion, an increase of over \$662 million (60%) over the last three years.

⁵⁵ The Bush, the Gunpowder, the James and the Elizabeth.

⁵⁶ The O'Malley-Brown Administration is proposing a \$20 million investment in the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund in the FY11 budget.

⁵⁷ The O'Malley-Brown Administration set the goal of reaching "the healthier Bay tipping point" by the end of 2020.

open space than we did before; or that the Blue Crab population is rebounding; or that we are finally embracing the power of a new aquaculture industry to bring back the native Oyster.⁵⁸



As we move Maryland forward out of this recession and into better times, we will need to continue to make the tough, but critically important choices necessary to expand opportunity and strengthen families; the choices that grow our middle class and allow us to make progress together.

The choices that give all of our children the education that they need to compete and win in a global economy. The choices that make us safer and more secure every day.⁵⁹ The choices that strengthen our laws against child predators.⁶⁰ ⁶¹ The choices that make it possible for Maryland to eradicate childhood hunger.⁶² The choices that make us a leader in energy conservation and renewable energy.⁶³ The choices that rebuild

our cities, our towns, and our inner beltway neighborhoods in a Maryland that is Smart, Green and Growing. The choices that restore the American dream and allow us to make “Genuine Progress.”⁶⁴ The choices that protect Maryland, the choices that make Maryland, Maryland – for our children and our children’s children.

⁵⁸ In partnership with Virginia, both states succeeded in reducing the harvest of spawning stock female blue crabs by 34% in 2008. Maryland received \$15 million in federal funds over three years and this year invested \$3 million in State capital funds to ease the economic impact on watermen. As a result the blue crab population has increased after only one year. The O’Malley-Brown Administration has proposed a new [Oyster Restoration & Aquaculture Development Plan](#), a multi-faceted effort to rebuild the decimated oyster population. Together with our partners, Maryland planted a record 750 million oysters in 2009. Today 5,238 citizen-stewards are growing oysters from piers in twelve tributaries for planting on local sanctuaries. Maryland’s [Smart, Green, and Growing](#) website has resources for citizens who would like to do their part to protect Maryland’s land, water, and air.

⁵⁹ Through [ESSENCE](#) (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics) 100% of Maryland’s acute care hospital emergency rooms are linked so that information can be shared during a public health emergency such as an epidemic outbreak.

⁶⁰ [SB 280 – Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision](#). The proposed legislative package would expand lifetime supervision for sexual offenders, and would add the offenses of indecent exposure and possession of child pornography to the list of eligible offenses for sex offender registration.

⁶¹ The O’Malley-Brown Administration has set the goal of reducing violent crimes against women and children 25% by 2012.

⁶² In the past year, 33,000 additional children received school breakfast, after school suppers, and summer meals. Additionally, 42,256 children were enrolled in the Food Supplement Program (food stamps) and 6,430 children and mothers received assistance through the WIC Program in the last year.

⁶³ The O’Malley-Brown Administration’s 2010 legislative agenda includes incentivizing the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles, acceleration of the solar Renewable Portfolio Standard, reauthorizing the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, and advancing off-shore wind energy. The O’Malley-Brown Administration set some of the most ambitious goals in America for decreasing per-capita electricity consumption by 15% by 2015 and increasing Maryland’s renewable energy portfolio standard 20% by 2022.

⁶⁴ To obtain a measure of Maryland’s prosperity, challenges, and opportunities, the O’Malley-Brown Administration is launching the most comprehensive application of the [Genuine Progress Indicator](#) any state has ever undertaken. In addition to measuring citizens’ economic standard of living, this tool allows the State to factor in environmental and social costs of problems like air pollution, crime and income inequality, as well as the values of benefits like clean water, education and volunteerism. It provides a more complete picture for citizens and policymakers working toward a more sustainable future and stronger economy.

ONE MARYLAND, FORWARD TOGETHER

But in order to move forward as One Maryland, there is another kind of work which we must do as a people. It is not the work of our hands or of our heads, but of our hearts. For there is a dark thing that has penetrated deep into our collective soul, a thing that has to be recognized, seen for what it is and rejected by us all. It is the debilitating and un-American idea that our children will not enjoy a better quality of life than we have, . . . that somehow we are destined to decline, backslide and fail . . .

With every fiber of my being, I reject this notion. I find it utterly unacceptable and so do the generations ahead of ours.

This recession will end. Our journey is not over. And our best days are still in front of us if we make it so!

Ironically, it is the very immensity of the problems we face with respect to climate change,⁶⁵ terror, resource scarcity, energy security, and health that is driving innovation in every sphere of education, technology and life-sciences – endeavors that all of us are able to rightly count among Maryland’s greatest competitive economic strengths.

From the schools, the laboratories, and the companies of Maryland are emerging the discoveries and technologies that will remake our world. We are not at the edge of a cliff; we are at the threshold of brilliant science, innovative technology and remarkable discoveries that will transform, for the better, the way we “feed, fuel, and heal” this world of ours.

We have a hundred years of creative work ahead of us – brilliant, sustaining, innovative service, a profound act of citizenship and participation that can bring us closer to each other and to this extraordinary place we call home.



CONCLUSION

Connecting Maryland’s journey to its resources, creativity and dreams is our great work.

⁶⁵ The O’Malley-Brown Administration created the [Coast-Smart Communities](#) Initiative in response to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Action Plan, to provide financial and technical assistance to coastal communities vulnerable to sea level rise and climate change. The O’Malley-Brown Administration set the goal of reducing Maryland’s statewide greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020.

To the cynical who say government is not the answer, I ask, what then is the question? For if the question is how to create jobs,... how to get our economy going again,... how to re-imagine what it means to be a Marylander in these challenging times, and how to create greater freedom, opportunity, and justice for all,... then a working and effective government is an indispensable and essential part of the answer. But only part; for government cannot be a substitute for citizenship. It can never replace the power of the individual, the power of individual creativity, the power of individual choices responsibly and courageously made.



Each of us is needed. All of us must act. The truth is, every person has an important story to tell, an important story to live. Together, over time, the people of Maryland have written a narrative that endures and grows. It is not a story of failure or fear. It is a story of genius and courage, threads of our being, stitched to an uncertain future wherein we act with courage, respect, and conscience to make a better life for our children.

For Maryland is not simply an isolated political entity or label outside there somewhere. It is something we share with one another and with the generations that will follow ours. The children born in our city centers are just as much our heritage and gift as are the tidewaters of the Eastern Shore and mountains of Western Maryland. There is no resting point where we finally know that we have secured a safe and prosperous future. The principles that inform our deeds and actions demand constant work, vigilance, reaffirmation, and reawakening.



We are blessed to have inherited the backbone and mettle of generations past. The rivers, forests, shores, and waters of this extraordinary state are ever our allies. And with us always are the quiet prayers of gratitude and encouragement of future generations watching.

In the eyes of every child is a shining message that we are born to be good, and that we experience our goodness by being kind and generous to each other.

May we embody this wisdom in our dreams and in the actions we take,... as One Maryland,... moving forward,... together.

END