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Mikulski, Cardin, O'Malley Announce Fight to Provide Relief for Maryland Watermen

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin (both D-Md.) today joined Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to announce that the State will seek a disaster declaration from the U.S. Department of Commerce for the Chesapeake Bay blue crab. A declaration will make Maryland's watermen eligible for emergency disaster funding to ease the economic burden placed on the crabbing industry as it faces a 34 percent reduction in the female crab harvest. The Team Maryland representatives met this morning with Captain Larry Simms, *President of the Maryland Watermen's Association*, to discuss the new federal-state effort.

Governor O'Malley's request, which was sent to Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and is provided below, notes that preliminary economic impacts on watermen, harvesters and the processing industry are estimated at \$15 million over the next three years. Funds would be used to provide alternative economic opportunities for watermen and the processing industry, while state regulators work with the industry to rebuild stocks and restructure the fishery.

Governor O'Malley, working with legislative leaders in the recently completed session of the General Assembly, set aside \$3 million in state capital funding to provide funds to employ watermen in restoring key Bay habitats, including rebuilding oyster reefs, grants to assist in the start up of aquaculture businesses, and grants to assist crab processing companies.

Senators Mikulski and Cardin, on the Senate Appropriations and Budget Committees respectively, will fight to put funding for the disaster assistance in the federal checkbook. If the Commerce Secretary approves the request, the industry will also become eligible for additional federal help through Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants, Small Business Administration (SBA) and Farm Credit System loans and Department of Labor worker training programs.

"Maryland's watermen are facing a very real disaster in the face of an already stressed economic market. It is time for us to team up to put the resources of the federal government behind the needs of our State," said Senator Mikulski. "As Chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Department of Commerce, I will not only urge the Secretary to declare a disaster, but immediately work to provide funding in the upcoming emergency supplemental spending bill to



help our struggling industry.”

“Blue crabs are an essential part of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and watermen are an essential part of Chesapeake Bay culture and economy,” said Senator Cardin. “We need to restore health to both of these critical parts of the Bay.”

“Our most valuable commercial fishery is in danger of an economic collapse. The blue crab supports one of the last major commercial fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay and provides the economic foundation for many small Bayside communities,” said Governor O'Malley. “If we are to save Maryland’s blue crab population, we must act now. But we must also ensure that the livelihood of our State's watermen continues to be sustained. In order to help mitigate the economic hardships expected to affect our State’s watermen, we are respectfully requesting that the Federal Commerce Secretary declare a commercial fishery failure and fisheries resource disaster.”

Governor O'Malley has worked closely with Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine in taking steps to rebuild crab populations. Governor Kaine will be sending a letter today seeking similar relief for watermen in Virginia.

“Governor Kaine and I are committed to working together to restore both crab populations and the industries they support,” said Governor O'Malley. “And through this action will continue to work together and with our watermen and blue crab industries to help them move toward a stronger and more sustainable future.”

Governor O' Malley's letter to Secretary Gutierrez is below:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to seek a declaration of a commercial fishery failure and a fisheries resource disaster affecting the Maryland commercial blue crab fishery. Emergency regulatory action is necessitated to retain and rejuvenate the spawning potential of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock by reducing fishing rates to protect a stock that has substantially depleted due to a variety of environmental factors. Chesapeake Bay blue crab stocks have declined by an estimated 70 percent since the early 1990's, imperiling the future of the Bay's most valuable commercial fishery. This request is made pursuant to Sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C §§ 1861a; 1864); and Section 308 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (16 U.S.C. § 4107).

Emergency regulation to protect and rebuild blue crab stocks will have severe impacts in parts of our state that depend heavily on economic activity derived from commercial fishing and related industries. In particular, management actions necessary to significantly constrain the harvest of mature female crabs will disproportionately affect lower eastern shore communities with a concentration of fishermen and processing plants. I would also like to point out that these management actions have been developed in close coordination with Virginia to ensure that we achieve Bay-wide restoration of blue crab stocks.

A declaration of a commercial fishery disaster would be the most efficient and expedient measure available to provide adequate and vital economic assistance to those communities; therefore, this request is necessary. Preliminary economic impacts on harvesters and the processing industry are estimated at \$15 million over the three year period necessary to rebuild stocks and restructure the fishery. This estimate is based upon losses viewed in light of recent catch and processing industry histories.

The dramatic decline in blue crab abundance in the Bay is attributable to many factors. Recent trends in harvest pressure have been brought about or exacerbated, in part, by many factors, including but not limited to poor water quality, loss of key habitat such as submerged aquatic vegetation and oyster reefs, increased predation loss, and changing climatic conditions that potentially limit the ability of young crabs to return to the Chesapeake Bay after developing in the waters of the near-shore Atlantic. Emergency action to restrict fishing rates is the only short term option to protect and restore the fishery while broader habitat and water quality issues are pursued.

Please consider this initial urgent request while we continue to work with local representatives, experts, and stakeholders over the next few weeks to complete the documentation as to the nature and extent of the economic disaster affecting Maryland fishermen and related industries and take the necessary steps to mitigate economic loss and rebuild a sustainable fishery. We will submit documentation to substantiate this request for a disaster declaration based on the economic losses suffered by Maryland's fishing communities as a result of necessary emergency regulatory actions.

I respectfully request that you: (1) declare a commercial fishery failure and a fisheries resource disaster based on the evidence we compile from biological data, current and historical landings data and other sources, and (2) make disaster relief funds available to help the Maryland blue crab industry and local communities that depend upon these fisheries to survive this period of substantial loss.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to provide the documentation necessary to facilitate your evaluation. I appreciate in advance your willingness to consider this request and hope that by working together we can provide needed economic relief to our commercial fishing communities.

Very truly yours,

Martin O'Malley

cc: The Maryland Congressional Delegation

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Governor O'Malley Swears In Members of the Maryland State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness

BALTIMORE, MD (May 5, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in the members of the Maryland State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness, a panel whose mission is to educate, advise, and encourage the citizens of Maryland to gain health benefits and enhance the quality of their lives through regular physical activity.

“I am honored to swear in the members of the Advisory Council on Physical Fitness,” said Governor O'Malley. “Working together, we've made real and steady progress for building a healthier State. The work of our fine appointees will go a long way toward furthering our goal of a more healthy future for Maryland.”

Working collaboratively with a broad range of agencies and organizations, the State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness seeks to accomplish the following goals:

- Collect and assemble physical activity-related information
- Disseminate information among Maryland citizens to promote regular physical activity
- Maintain liaisons with state and local agencies (e.g., education, planning and transportation) to improve opportunities for regular physical activity among all Maryland citizens

“A healthier citizenry is essential to the common good and our quality of life,” said Governor O'Malley. “A healthier citizenry means lower costs for our health care system, more productivity in the work force, and it strengthens the bonds of community as our friends, family and neighbors live longer and have more opportunity to give back to those around them.”

The members include:

Brenda C. Loube, Chair

A resident of Montgomery County, Brenda brings over 30 years of Experience in Health and Physical Education to the Advisory Council. She is Co-Founder and Owner of Corporate Fitness Works.

Jason Bosley-Smith

A resident of Harford County, Jason is a Certified Personal Trainer, Kinesis Instructor, and Nutrition

Specialist. He is also Owner/President of Synergy Health & Fitness.

Charles Chester

A Montgomery County resident, Charles is an attorney with Private Health Law Practice, and an accomplished Tri-athlete with USA Triathlon national ranking.

James Dorf

A resident of Baltimore County, James is Owner of Mobile Wireless, LLC and is actively involved with several local athletic organizations.

Dr. Lillian Green-Chamberlain

A resident of Montgomery County, Dr. Green-Chamberlain served as the first Director of the Physical Education and Sports Program for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. She currently serves as an active member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Larry Tyrone Hughes

A Baltimore County resident, Larry is Founder/Executive Director of Maryland Wheelchair Athletic Promotions, Inc. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Special Olympics and on the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities.

Linda M. Kephart

A resident of Carroll County, Linda is Supervisor of Health and Elementary Physical Education for Carroll County Public Schools. In 2002, she was named Carroll County Track and Field Coach of the year.

Vikram Khanna

A resident of Howard County, Vikram is Founder/CEO of Galileo Health Partners, LLC and Director of Fitness Ministry at St. John's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches and Fairfax Presbyterian Church.

Lee Meizlesh

A Howard County resident, Lee serves as Commissioner of the Maryland Senior Olympics.

Amy Elizabeth Price

A resident of Harford County, Amy is an Exercise Physiologist and Certified Personal Trainer at the Arena Club. She has participated in collegiate lacrosse and has been active with women's lacrosse camps for the past 13 years.

Jeanne E. Ruff

A Wicomico County resident, Jeanne is Director of Cardiovascular/Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Health Promotion at the Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

Teresa Di Stefano Seifert

A resident of Calvert County, Teresa is Professor of Health and Human Performance at the Prince George's Community College and active with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, serving as a Girl Scout troop leader.

Andrew L. Vineberg

A Baltimore County resident, Andrew is a Pharmaceuticals Representative with Schering Plough.

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Governor O'Malley Congratulates Maryland's Teachers for Making Schools Among Best in Nation

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 6, 2008) – In celebration of National Teacher Day, Governor Martin O'Malley today congratulated Maryland's educators for their critical role in making the state's school system one of the best in the country. Governor O'Malley today also issued a Governor's Proclamation in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week.

"I proudly join students, parents and members of local communities across Maryland in thanking our more than 100,000 teachers and other staff who bring their best every day to our students," said Governor O'Malley. "Through their hard work and dedication, great teachers spark our children's curiosity and teach them to become lifelong learners."

Over the past year, Maryland's public schools have showed signs of excellent progress. *Education Week* recently ranked Maryland's school system among the top three in the country, the state ranked #2 in the nation in the percentage of students who get a grade of "3" or better on AP tests, and reading and math scores have been rising in every district in the state.

In his first 14 months in office, Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly made a historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 public education, including \$733 million for school construction during his first two years in office to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education. Governor O'Malley also provided funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time, and created the SEED school, Maryland's first statewide public boarding school.

In addition, in order to ensure that higher education is accessible to more Maryland families, Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly established the first ever Higher Education Trust Fund to stabilize tuition costs for families and froze college tuition for a third consecutive year. Governor O'Malley also increased aid for community colleges by 9 percent and invested a record \$150 million over the last two years to better facilities at community colleges around our State.

To learn more about National Teacher Day, sponsored by the National Education Association and the Maryland State Teachers Association, visit <http://www.nea.org/teacherday/index.html>.

[[View a copy of the proclamation](#)]

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Governor O'Malley Launches Ad Campaign to Combat Foreclosures

Mortgage Late? Don't Wait!

BALTIMORE, MD (May 6, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Department of Labor and Licensing Secretary Thomas Perez, Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond Skinner and other officials today kicked off a comprehensive, multimedia advertising campaign to help tackle rising foreclosures in the State and ensure Maryland homeowners are aware of the programs available to provide assistance and relief.



“To protect our middle class families from losing their homes, we must make sure Marylanders know all of the programs and services available to them,” said Governor O'Malley. “I am pleased to announce our latest effort to combat foreclosure. Under the maxim that ‘knowledge is power’ we are launching a multimedia ad campaign to let our fellow citizens know that help is available.”

“Governor O'Malley and his team have developed useful tools for our struggling homeowners to use to avoid foreclosure. I strongly encourage our citizens to reach out and use them,” said Mayor Sheila Dixon. “If you are slipping toward foreclosure, help is available to you but there is no time to waste in getting it.”

“In a city where we struggle every day to find the resources to provide the services our citizens need, the last thing we need in our City is a mortgage crisis on the backs of low and middle income homeowners,” Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. “No one should be left in the cold due to predatory lending, and these ad campaigns help provide the protection homeowners need to avoid just that.”

The Department of Housing and Community and Development, the Department of Labor and Licensing Regulation, and the Department of Transportation collaborated to develop the statewide campaign, which includes the following components:

- **Bus Ads** – MTA buses in the Baltimore area and Metro buses in the Washington, DC area currently feature two different designs of the ad with the “Mortgage Late? Don't Wait!” tag line. Seven-hundred MTA buses and 100 Light Rail cars have the interior ads. Twenty buses have rear exterior signage,

otherwise known as “tails” and 10 buses have side exterior signage, known as “kings.” The ads will run for at least 6 months. Metro buses within Prince George’s County include the ads. Sixty buses have outside signage and 500 buses have interior signage.

- **Postcard Mailings** – In late March and early April, 680,000 “Mortgage Late? Don’t Wait!” postcards were mailed to identified priority zip codes throughout Maryland that have seen the highest numbers of foreclosures.
- **Radio spots** – Thirty and sixty second English spots as well as a Spanish-language spot have been airing on stations through out the Baltimore and Washington, DC metropolitan areas on the following networks: Radio One Stations, CBS Baltimore, CBS D.C. and ClearChannel. Between 20 and 30 radio spots will run each week on these networks’ radio stations from April to June.
- **Print ads** – Advertisements are currently running throughout Maryland in major and local newspapers.
- **Outreach** – DHCD has been working with specific outreach audiences and groups, such as the Collective Banking Group (CBG) in Prince George’s County and the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition (BHPC) that have helped deliver the “Mortgage Late? Don’t Wait!” message and distributed consumer information, including the HOPE brochure.
- **Billboard ads** – Advertisements similar to the bus ad designs are currently displayed in locations in the Baltimore area and Southern Maryland.

“Unfortunately, there is no magic solution,” says Secretary Raymond A. Skinner. “As home values decline, many homeowners are placed in an impossible situation. And while we cannot raise false expectations, we strongly believe we can help more people if we can assist them at a much earlier juncture.”

“Whether out of fear, or embarrassment or misunderstanding, too often homeowners ignore the letters in the mail, afraid to face the reality of their circumstances,” said Secretary Thomas Perez. “This ad campaign is really about closing the gap that we see so often in foreclosure cases. We have help to offer, and we need to do everything we can to make sure homeowners can access that help.”

“We’re very pleased to bring the full power of transit advertising to this important effort,” said Secretary John D. Porcari. “These ads will be seen by more than 240,000 Maryland transit riders a day.”

The “Mortgage Late? Don’t Wait!” slogan is the theme of the BHPC’s public education campaign to combat foreclosures in Baltimore City. Gayle V. Economos of GVE Media/Public Relations LLC developed the slogan for the BHPC and in March, BHPC approved the use of this tagline for the State campaign.

With homeownership and neighborhoods threatened by defaulting subprime and “exotic” mortgages, Governor O’Malley in June 2007 initiated a comprehensive effort to combat rising foreclosure rates in Maryland. Governor O’Malley launched the HOPE Initiative, or Home Owners Preserving Equity, which provides access to counseling services and resources for homeowners needing to refinance, and created the Homeownership Preservation Task Force to study the issue and make recommendations for reform.

As a result of the Task Force’s recommendations, Governor O’Malley introduced sweeping reforms, including



improving the regulation of mortgage industry professionals and reforming lending practices, creating a criminal mortgage fraud statute, modifying the Protection for Homeowners in Foreclosure Act (PHIFA), and reforming the foreclosure process. The General Assembly approved the measures overwhelmingly.

DHCD has developed two refinance loans, called Lifeline and Homesaver respectively. Earlier this year, Governor O'Malley announced the "Bridge to HOPE" Loan Program, which provides small gap loans at zero percent interest to homeowners facing difficulty, giving them time to get back on their feet or find a solution. The statewide program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Administration (CDA). Governor O'Malley has also been working with mortgage loan servicers to set a standard for consistent, timely and sustainable loss mitigation services for Maryland homeowners. Governor O'Malley has also been working with banks to develop a product that would enable more homeowners to refinance.

Since July 2007, the 17 initial HOPE counseling agencies have provided foreclosure prevention assistance to more than 4,000 homeowners and has fielded more than 4,500 calls for assistance. Maryland recently expanded the HOPE counseling network to a total of 28 nonprofit housing counselors with grants totaling \$1.6 million. These nonprofits will be able to assist more than 6,000 homeowners in the coming year.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Two District Court Judges

Distinguished Candidates Selected to Serve the Baltimore City District Court

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 7, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today appointed Videtta A. Brown and Leon R. Cooper to serve on the Baltimore City District Court.

"I am pleased to appoint these highly qualified attorneys to serve on the bench in Baltimore City," said Governor O'Malley. "Ms. Brown and Mr. Cooper have led distinguished careers in public service, and I am confident that they will uphold the important mission of the District Court – providing equal and exact justice to all persons who come before the court."

Ms. Brown has been a prosecutor in the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office since 1989. Currently, she serves as the Division Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, where she supervises prosecutors and oversees domestic violence cases, in addition to trying her own docket of cases. During her tenure at the State's Attorney's Office, she has prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including felony narcotics and juvenile matters.

Ms. Brown is an adjunct instructor at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she teaches a Domestic Violence and the Law Seminar. She also has taught courses on criminal law and procedure. In 2001, she received the Lieutenant Governor's Women in Service Award. In 1999, she received a Certificate of Merit from the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Mr. Cooper has practiced law for over 20 years in Baltimore City. Since 1999, he has been an Assistant Public Defender for the State of Maryland. He has handled numerous felony and misdemeanor cases, including cases on burglary, armed carjacking, and murder charges. Currently, he serves as the Attorney Trainer for the Office of the Public Defender. In this capacity, he is responsible for training approximately 500 attorneys, as well as the social workers and investigators of the Office.

From 1987 to 1996, Mr. Cooper was an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City. In that role, he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases, including robbery, murder, and felony narcotics cases. He also worked in private practice for several years, handling civil and criminal matters before state and federal courts. Mr. Cooper has received a number of awards for his public service, including a Distinguished Service Award in 2003 from the Maryland State Bar Association and the Citizenship Related Education Program for

the Schools of Maryland. In 2000, he was recognized as an Outstanding Assistant Public Defender of the Year.

Prior to selecting the appointees, Governor O'Malley interviewed numerous candidates who were recommended to him by the trial court judicial nominating commission for Baltimore City. More information on the judicial nominating commissions can be found at <http://www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.01.2008.04eo.pdf>.

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Governor O'Malley Declares Hagerstown Maryland's "Capital for a Day"

Holds Cabinet Meeting with Local Officials, Tours Maymart, and Meets with Correctional Officers

HAGERSTOWN, MD (May 8, 2008) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley spent the day in Hagerstown, MD with Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and his Executive Cabinet and declared that city Maryland's "Capital for a Day." The Governor began the day hearing from local veterans groups, elected officials and community leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing Washington County and surrounding areas.

Throughout the day, Governor O'Malley met with local veterans, community leaders, and residents, toured Maymart, a local celebration of the spring season, had lunch with local business leaders, planted a tree with local emergency service workers in memory of 9/11 victims, and toured the Maryland Correctional Training Center where he met with Correctional Officers.

"I am proud to officially proclaim Hagerstown as Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley. "As Western Maryland's largest city, Hagerstown represents the challenges and opportunities facing cities and towns throughout this region. Since our capacity for progress is not confined to the walls of the State House, neither too should our state capital. I am grateful to all the local officials and community leaders for taking the time to meet with me today to discuss how we can work together to move our One Maryland forward."

Governor O'Malley touted Hagerstown as an example of the progress occurring through Maryland, noting that Washington County gained 1,800 new jobs last year, and saw \$130 million in new investment, including 1.3 million square feet of new industrial and commercial construction.

"As we continue to make progress for Marylanders, we must not lose focus on our more rural areas and our smaller towns," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "I am pleased to join Governor O'Malley and the rest of our cabinet today in focusing on the issues, challenges and opportunities right here in Hagerstown."

Delegate John P. Donoghue joined the Governor at events throughout the day, including a meet and greet with local elected officials. "Governor O'Malley's visit to Washington County shows his commitment to maintaining a strong working relationship with residents and businesses here," said Delegate Donoghue. "This partnership is only strengthened through visits like this, and a continued dialogue with local officials in our region."

“On behalf of the City of Hagerstown, our City Council and the citizens of our community, I'd like to thank Governor O'Malley for visiting Hagerstown and choosing our beautiful home as Maryland's ‘Capital for a Day,’” said Hagerstown Mayor Robert Bruchey, III. “Hagerstown's motto is that our city is a great place to live, work and visit, and the Governor and his cabinet will see that here today in the wonderful qualities of our town.”

Governor O'Malley began the day with a breakfast meeting with Washington County veterans, where he highlighted legislative and budget initiatives to support veterans particularly in rural Maryland. The Governor noted the recent establishment of a full time Maryland Veterans Administration office in Hagerstown to assist local veterans in filing their claims. Later, the Governor held a cabinet meeting where he and the cabinet heard from local elected officials who delivered presentations on their respective jurisdictions and issues affecting Western Maryland constituents.

During a visit to the public square following the cabinet meeting, Governor O'Malley toured through May Mart, a celebration of spring featuring local merchants. May Mart kicks off Hagerstown's “Market in the Square” season, a Farmer's Market gathering that takes place throughout the spring. The Governor greeted local vendors of food and crafts during the tour.

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown then held an informal meet and greet with local officials of Washington County, where the Governor also presented a proclamation in honor of National Nurses Week to Washington County Hospital Nurses. During an afternoon press conference, Governor O'Malley officially declared Hagerstown the first Maryland “Capital for a Day” of 2008, and honored local emergency service workers by planting a tree in memory of 9/11 victims at a memorial site in Hagerstown City Park. The memorial was established by Hagerstown's Mayor and City Council, Washington County Commissioners and the County's delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and developed by the Washington County Citizen Corps in 2004 to honor those fallen heroes who died in service to their country. The Governor's tree planting began the memorial beautification process.

“The men and women we honor with this memorial were brave Marylanders who dedicated their time on earth to those who would walk it after they departed,” said Governor O'Malley. “They were driven by the same desire to look forward that drives us today – our shared conviction that tomorrow can be better than today and each of us shares a personal responsibility to make it so.”

Later, Governor O'Malley joined local business leaders at a lunch sponsored by the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce, where he spoke with members about the activities and needs of small businesses in the Western Maryland region.

That afternoon, Governor O'Malley **visited the Maryland Correctional Training Center**, where he met with Correctional Officers and toured the Division of Correction K9 Training Center, where Division of Correction officials have pioneered a program to breed their own contraband-detecting dogs. In addition to saving the state significant money by breeding them at the facility, the program allows for faster training of the animals.

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Governor O'Malley Tours Maryland Correctional Training Center, Meets with Correctional Officers

HAGERSTOWN, MD (May 8, 2008) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley visited the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC), where he toured the facility, met with Correctional Officers, and toured the MCTC K9 Unit. The visit capped the Governor's "Capital for a Day" in Hagerstown, where he met with local veterans, community and business leaders, and residents. During his visit today, Governor O'Malley met with approximately 25 Correctional Officers to field questions from them, and to discuss new policy initiatives the Governor pushed to benefit officers like them.

"I'm proud to have made public safety a cornerstone of the O'Malley/Brown administration," said Governor O'Malley. "I'm also proud that we were able to secure funding for additional correctional officers, stab-proof vests which will provide vital protection to those who work in this facility, and an innovative K9 training program that will enhance safety through increase contraband seizures. Correctional Officers represent a unique and critical part of the criminal justice system, and they deserve the support and protection it takes to do the job well."

"We're honored to welcome Governor O'Malley to the Maryland Correctional Training Center on behalf of our over 600 employees," said Warden Ken Horning, a 38 year veteran of the Division of Corrections. "We have an outstanding workforce that delivers a safe environment and programs that will help those who are willing to change and return to society as productive citizens. We're thrilled that the Governor chose MCTC as a place to visit."

Following the meeting, Governor O'Malley toured the Center's K9 Training Facility, where Division of Correction officials have pioneered a program to breed their own contraband-detecting dogs. In addition to saving the state significant money by breeding them at the facility, the program allows for faster training of the animals.

"We're saving taxpayers thousands of dollars and producing fantastic contraband-detecting dogs at the same time," said Major Peter Anderson, Commander of the Division of Correction K9 Unit. "It's a win for everybody: safer prisons for staff, less inmate violence due to contraband, and a big savings for the public."

The dogs at the facility are trained to detect contraband including cell phones that are smuggled in to prisoners in objects like televisions and other packages. Due to increased vigilance and efforts by Maryland

Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, cell phone seizures increased to from just two in 2007 to 34 since January of 2008 at MCTC alone. Statewide, similar efforts have resulted in a 122% increase in cell seizures.

MCTC currently employs approximately 620 people. The three Hagerstown prisons combine for more than 1,600 jobs, and total approximately 7,000 inmates. All are medium-security institutions. Representatives from all three facilities were present for the Governor's meeting. Hagerstown also is the regional headquarters of Maryland Correctional Enterprises, which operates numerous shops in the area providing job training and valuable skills for inmates.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts First Annual Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards

Special Recognition Award Presented to Veteran White House Correspondent Helen Thomas

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 13, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley was joined by Secretary Gloria Lawlah, Secretary of Aging, Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold and others at the first annual Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards, recognizing older Marylanders for their service and contribution towards a better Maryland. The Governor declared May 2008 Older Marylander's Month, and presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Helen Thomas, the legendary White House Correspondent whose work covering American Presidents has spanned nearly fifty years.

"The senior citizen community is vital to the progress of our One Maryland, and it is my honor to recognize that contribution here today," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Today we honor the leadership of Maryland's senior citizens and our shared belief that there is no such thing as a spare American, no matter our age. Each of us must do our part to contribute to the common good."

"May is Older Marylanders' Month, and it is important that we take time to acknowledge some exceptional seniors in the State of Maryland for their accomplishments in the arts and fitness, as well as other leaders who have contributed to the quality of life of our seniors," said Gloria Lawlah, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging. "I am especially pleased to recognize Helen Thomas for her legendary career and continuing contributions to American journalism."

The Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards is a celebration of those who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Aging and the quality of life for seniors in Maryland. Award winners include:

Visual Arts: Group – Senior Artist Alliance

Individual – Wasyl Palijczuk

Performing Arts: Baltimore County Senior Jazz Band

Health and Vitality: Victoria L. Smith

Outstanding Service Contributions: Reverend John Sharp

Lifetime Achievement: Helen Thomas

In presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to veteran journalist Helen Thomas, Governor O'Malley noted the visionary nature of her service in media. "For decades, Helen Thomas has been an indomitable journalistic force, helping to shape and advance the national discussion," said Governor O'Malley. "She's dared to step up and face great adversity to better the profession and the country she loves."

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Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Improve Public Safety for State

O'Malley Signs DNA Bill, Iran Divestment, BRAC Community Enhancement Act into Law

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 13, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, to sign legislation to improve public safety in every region of our State.

“We must do all that we can to protect the citizens in every region of our State,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “I want to thank the General Assembly in working together this session to pass legislation that continues to make Maryland a safer place to live. With today's bills, we are expanding our DNA law to provide law enforcement the tools to more efficiently resolve open criminal investigations, improving our homeland security by divesting from foreign companies with investments in Iran's petroleum-energy sector, supporting our Nation's defense and security efforts through BRAC by providing local jurisdictions with incentives to enhance public infrastructure, and we are partnering with another local jurisdiction (City of Annapolis) to reduce violent crime.”

“Public safety is the cornerstone of a civil society and we made great strides this session to make Maryland safer,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “Today, we add several tools to the public safety arsenal: the DNA bill and expanding the jurisdiction of General Service police, as a part of an unprecedented crime strategy to help communities statewide. I congratulate Governor O'Malley, President Miller and the entire General Assembly for fighting to keep our citizens safe.”

“This bill signing is another example of how the Governor's aggressive agenda paid off with important progress in many areas. I believe the DNA bill appropriately balances the need for cutting edge technology in law enforcement while fairly addressing civil liberty concerns,” said Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller. “With respect to the divestment bill, I join many patriotic Marylanders who believe that no State monies should benefit companies doing business in countries that pose a direct and hostile threat to the well being of the United States.”

Governor O'Malley today signed into law legislation that expands Maryland's DNA law allowing law enforcement to more efficiently resolve open criminal investigations, pursue repeat offenders and save valuable time pursuing false leads by effectively eliminating suspects from ongoing investigations. The

legislation requires a DNA sample to be taken from any individual charged for specified crimes of violence or felony burglary and requires the sample to be taken at the time the individual is charged at a facility specified by the Secretary of State Police.

Last year, the Maryland State Police under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, was successful in closing a backlog of more than 24,000 DNA samples. Through the creation of DNA Stat, the O'Malley-Brown Administration eliminated this backlog, and our DNA-database is now fully functioning as an effective crime prevention tool. Crucial positions in the crime lab that had been vacant and unfunded for years have been filled, and \$800,000 has been spent to fund long-term equipment needs. Since we began DNA Stat in March 2007, we've made 330 DNA matches, or hits-- a 46% increase in the total hits ever made with CODIS in Maryland. Over 32,000 samples have been uploaded, doubling the size of Maryland's CODIS database and eliminating the convicted offender database. We broke down information barriers to identify convicted offenders on parole and probation who owed DNA samples, and trained over 600 parole and probation employees to collect over 14,000 parolee and probationer samples.

In addition, Governor O'Malley signed a bill that authorizes a law enforcement agency to release a photograph and information identifying juvenile offenders that have escaped from a juvenile detention center or residential facility to aid in the child's apprehension. He also signed an emergency bill that expands the authority of the Department of General Services police by allowing DGS officers to make arrests and enforce laws in any area within 1,000 feet of State buildings and grounds in Annapolis. Previously, DGS officers were limited to making arrests only on State property.

"Public safety is the foundation for all that we do in local government," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "I applaud Governor O'Malley for the passage of this important legislation that will make Baltimore County safer. The Governor continues to focus on quality of life issues that families care about all across the State."

Governor O'Malley also signed into law today a bill that improves homeland security and protects Marylanders against terrorism threats, and specifically, directs the Board of Trustees to begin divesting from foreign companies with substantial investments in Iran's petroleum-energy sector. Investing in these publicly traded companies doing business in Iran puts the national security of the country, and the retirement and pensions of State employees, at substantial financial risk. This bill, therefore, directs the Board of Trustees, pursuant to its fiduciary responsibilities, to divest those accounts over which it exercises full control from companies with over \$20 million invested in Iran's petroleum-energy sector. Before divesting, the Board of Trustees may offer companies the opportunity to stop doing business in Iran, and the total divestment cannot affect more than ½ of 1% of the system's assets. In enacting this bill, Maryland joins California, Florida, Michigan and a growing number of other states across the country taking similar action, both to protect their retirement systems from financial risk and to ensure that American dollars are not used to support State-sponsored terrorism.

Between now and 2011, Maryland anticipates the arrival of as many as 60,000 new jobs and 28,000 new households as a result of the BRAC Commission recommendations. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Brown, the BRAC Subcabinet has worked throughout the past year to prepare Maryland's action plan to support of our Nation's defense and security efforts. The BRAC Subcabinet worked extensively with local, State and federal agencies, the private sector and the public to develop strategies to accommodate the new employers, workers and families that will relocate to Maryland in the coming years. Governor O'Malley signed into law today the BRAC Community Enhancement Act, which, based on recommendations by the BRAC Subcabinet, establishes BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zones to provide local jurisdictions with incentives to enhance public infrastructure such as streets, utilities and recreation venues in designated

revitalization and redevelopment areas. The BRAC Community Enhancement Act also expands the use of the new Higher Education Investment Fund to allow for BRAC-related higher education initiatives administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Governor O'Malley has included \$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget for workforce training initiatives related to BRAC.

“BRAC represents an incredible opportunity for our state. But, to fully realize any opportunity, it is incumbent each of us to recognize the challenges that we must come together to move beyond,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “With BRAC, our greatest challenges lie in our ability to develop the workforce and prepare the infrastructure to serve the installations’ missions. The BRAC Higher Education Fund and the BRAC Community Enhancement Act tackle both those challenges head on and keep Maryland’s progress toward complete BRAC readiness on the fast track.”

In his first 15 months in office, Governor O'Malley has made great strides in improving public safety across the State, the number one responsibility of government, including:

- Expanded DNA fingerprinting to include violent offenders and eliminated DNA backlog left by previous administration;
- Enhanced supervision of violent offenders by reforming Parole and Probation;
- Provided funding for stab-proof vests for Correctional Officers;
- Ended parole for child sex offenders with Jessica’s Law, and invested \$2 million in monitoring child sex predators;
- Established Regional partnership with Baltimore City and Prince George’s County to reduce gun violence, crime and gang-related activity;
- Introduced legislation to allow critical information-sharing between the Department of Juvenile Services and the Office of Parole and Probation to continue the much needed reform of our juvenile justice system;
- Boosted drug treatment by \$10 million over 2 years; and
- Closed Maryland’s most violent prison – Maryland House of Corrections.

[[View full list of bills signed this day](#)]

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Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Keynote Address Before Prince George's Chamber of Commerce

Annual Governor's Luncheon Brings Together Local Business Leaders with Public Officials

COLLEGE PARK, MD (May 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the keynote address before the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce Annual Governor's Luncheon today, focusing his remarks on the significance of minority owned business in Maryland, and the steps that his administration has taken to create and sustain a vibrant economy statewide.

"This county is a place which leads the way in our efforts to better harness the strength of our State's diversity," said Governor O'Malley. "Over the past 14 months, we've come together as One Maryland and made real and steady progress toward protecting our shared priorities. And we've done so in a manner that we believe has strengthened our business climate here in Prince George's County."

"During times of economic growth and development, it is important that we all work collectively to ensure everyone enjoys an opportunity to participate," said James Dula, PhD, President of the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce. "Governor O'Malley is a leader that embraces this concept and we are extremely happy to have him address the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce business community."

On fiscal accountability, the Governor highlighted the progress of this administration in the face of challenging economic times. "When we inherited a \$1.7 billion structural deficit from our predecessors we did what we had to do and we tried to do it in the fairest way possible, without putting our State at a competitive disadvantage with Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and other states," he said. "Working together as One Maryland, we've nearly closed that deficit, cut spending by nearly \$2 billion, reduced the size of our bureaucracy, left a cash balance of nearly \$1 billion, retained our Triple A bond rating, and created a system of performance based governance we call StateStat to better target our resources so our State government can do more with less. We've done these things while strengthening our priorities, instead of abandoning them. Fiscal responsibility is not an end in and of itself – but rather it's what allows us to make these investments in workforce creation, in transportation, in expanding educational opportunity."

The Governor also discussed public safety, recognizing that a safe community is a community friendly to

business growth. “As we make these investments, we have no higher priority than our public’s safety,” he said. “When Lt. Governor Brown and I took that oath, we said that it’s not acceptable and it’s not right that our State should be first in so many good categories and also near the top when it comes to violent crimes. While we still have much work to do, we’ve come together and made some real progress over these past 15 months. Our murder rate is down across our State, including in this county, where it has dropped 12%. And, we’ve knocked down the backlog of some 24,000 DNA samples – which has led to the arrest of 61 rapists and murderers. We’ve increased by 46% the number of CODIS match hits, doubled the size of our DNA database – and just yesterday I signed legislation which will give our police and law enforcement agencies the tools they need to resolve open investigations, weed out false leads, and continue saving lives. In addition, we’re partnering with officials here in Prince George’s County to reduce gun violence, crime and gang related activity. We’re taking this action, because we believe there is no such thing as a spare Marylander or a spare American and to lose even one life is a tragedy.”

Identifying Maryland’s workforce as its best competitive advantage among the fifty states, Governor O’Malley touted significant measures aimed at increasing opportunity for workforce development. “We’ve expanded the P-20 Leadership Council to make sure our schools are adequately preparing our kids for the demands of the workforce and of higher education. We’ve made major investments in school construction, investing \$93 million here in Prince George’s County – by comparison, the previous administration allocated only \$23 million in their first two years. All in all, we will have invested more in two years than the previous administration invested in four. We’ve also invested a record \$150 million in facility improvements at our community colleges. And, we froze college tuition for three consecutive years, making college education more accessible for our families.”

Governor O’Malley also highlighted the transit-oriented development opportunities in Prince George’s County. “There is enough land available for transit-oriented development within a half mile of our state’s 112 transit stations to theoretically absorb all the new residents Maryland is expected to gain in the next two decades – all 1.1 million of them,” he said. “In Prince George’s County alone, 14 of our 15 Metro Station properties have ample room for development. There are nearly 2,800 acres of land available for true smart growth within walking distance to these stations, and we’re working with the County to harness this potential. The University of Maryland is working on one of these projects in its East Campus, which will tie into the future Purple Line. Our State Transportation and Business and Economic Development departments have been working to bring businesses to these sites, and we’ve also been partnering with our Congressional delegation to bring federal offices – with a specific emphasis on Prince George’s locations.”

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit alliance of over 900 businesses, representing over 250,000 employees, making it one of the largest chambers in the state of Maryland and the eleventh largest chamber in the Washington Metropolitan region. Founded in 1924, the Chamber works to carry out its mission of advancing the interest of business for a vibrant Prince George's County. It is recognized as the most effective voice for business in Prince George's County and has dedicated itself to fostering a sound and progressive business climate for the County, as well as assuming a leadership position in identifying and resolving community issues and concerns.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints District Court Judge

Distinguished Prosecutor Selected to Serve on the Harford County District Court

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today appointed Harford County resident Susan Hower Hazlett to serve on the Harford County District Court.

“I am proud to appoint a statewide leader in the prosecution of child abuse and sex offense cases to serve on the bench in Harford County,” said Governor O'Malley. “Ms. Hazlett has dedicated her entire career to public service and I am confident that she will be an outstanding addition to the bench.”

Ms. Hazlett has been a prosecutor for her entire 20-year career. Currently, she serves as the Senior Trial Attorney in the Child Abuse/Sex Offense Division of the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office, where she supervises prosecutors, trains prosecutors new to Circuit Court and maintains her own caseload of 25-30 felony cases, including homicides and sex offense cases. During her tenure at the State's Attorney's Office, she has appeared in court almost daily. She has handled more than 600 child abuse and sex offense cases and over 25 homicides. In the past five years she has tried approximately 50 cases.

In addition, Ms. Hazlett helped to draft legislation to create the crime of First Degree Child Abuse. She testified at General Assembly hearings in support of the bill, which became law in 2005. Ms. Hazlett routinely conducts statewide trainings about child abuse and sexual abuse cases for prosecutors, police officers, social workers, and nurses. These trainings include the “Finding Words Maryland” program – which covers preparing child witnesses for court, expert witness testimony, and hearsay admissibility – as well as police in-service trainings and trainings at local hospitals for new sexual assault nurse examiner students.

Ms. Hazlett is the Maryland State's Attorney's Association designee to the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect. She is also a member of the Franklin Square Hospital Child Protection Team and the Baltimore County Child Protection Panel. Ms. Hazlett is the Chair of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association Child Abuse Subcommittee.

A resident of Baldwin, Maryland, Ms. Hazlett is co-chair of the Glen Elyn Community Association Children's Activities Committee and an official in the Harford Swim League Stroke and Turn. She received a Special Recognition Award from the Maryland Children's Alliance in 2004.

Prior to selecting the appointees, Governor O'Malley interviewed numerous candidates who were

recommended to him by the trial court judicial nominating commission for Harford County. More information on the judicial nominating commissions can be found at <http://www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.01.2008.04eo.pdf>.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

Governor O'Malley Praised House of Representatives for Passage of Farm Bill

I want to thank the U.S. House of Representatives for their overwhelming passage of the Farm Bill this afternoon, on behalf of Maryland's farmers and all citizens who care about a healthy and sustainable environment. This legislation, if enacted, will bring crucial and substantial funding to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. The bill also contains funding that will help keep farming in Maryland profitable and sustainable, and allow for the continued growth of the sustainable energy industry in our State.

Our federal delegation, with the overwhelming bipartisan support of over 300 members of Congress, built the veto-proof coalition needed to protect the priorities of those who wish to leave a healthier, cleaner Maryland for our children. I look forward to working with Senator Mikulski and Senator Cardin, as they work with their colleagues in the Senate to send this important legislation to the President's desk.

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Statement by Governor Martin O'Malley on Successful PSC Complaint on Unfair Electricity Market Rules

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 15, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement regarding the Public Service Commission's successful complaint on unfair electricity market rules:

"I want to commend the Public Service Commission for its ongoing efforts to secure more rate relief for Maryland's families."

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) today, in response to a complaint filed by the Maryland PSC, concluded that 'unjust and unreasonable' market rules cost Maryland ratepayers an additional \$87.5 million in 2006. Due to the PSC's complaint FERC has ordered a discontinuation of the pricing structure which produced this imbalance."

"At a time when energy costs continue to increase nationwide, Maryland's PSC has secured well-over \$2 billion in rate-relief for our families, making it clear that a watchdog for ratepayers is back on the job."

"Chairman Larsen and the PSC will continue to act aggressively to protect Maryland's ratepayers from unjust and unreasonable electricity markets."

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Statement by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson on Passage of Farm Bill

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 15, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley and Department of Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson released the following statements today regarding United States Congress's passage of the Farm Bill:

"I want to thank the members of the U.S. Senate, and especially Senator Mikulski and Senator Cardin, for their overwhelming passage of the Farm Bill today. The Farm Bill is good news for Maryland farmers, for the Chesapeake Bay and our environment, as well as all residents who enjoy locally grown and raised foods," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "If enacted, the Farm Bill will provide unprecedented funding for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, new money for local marketing, organic research and research into biofuels. All of these protect our priorities of strengthening our family farms and businesses, protecting the environment and the health of our residents, and expanding opportunity for more people rather than fewer. I urge the President to sign this bill into law."

"This Farm Bill is an enormous undertaking and we thank our U.S. Congressional representatives for seeing it through to passage. We are very pleased to see such strong funding for the Chesapeake Bay to help our farmers to increase their conservation efforts," said Department of Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson. "Hand in hand with conservation is the focus on new marketing and research opportunities for agriculture. From farmers markets, organics and specialty crops to biofuels, feedstocks and new energy sources to crop insurance to international marketing, nutrition programs and so much more, there is a lot that is good for our farmers and for all of our residents. We look forward to seeing the President sign the bill."

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Governor O'Malley Addresses Tech Council of Maryland at 20th Annual Awards Celebration

BETHESDA, MD (May 15, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley this evening will be the keynote speaker and will join Maryland's technology industry at the Tech Council of Maryland's 20th Annual Dinner and Tech Awards Celebration. The event, which is being held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center from 5:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., is considered the largest and most prestigious awards ceremony in the Mid-Atlantic region celebrating the accomplishments emerging from the technology and biotechnology community.

In his remarks, Governor O'Malley praised the technology industry for their steadfast lobbying efforts to repeal the computer services sales tax and challenged them to build on the heightened awareness and positive momentum that the issue created.

“This evening is not only a great opportunity to honor the best and brightest in Maryland's technology industry, but also to recognize the Tech Council for the tremendous effort they led to repeal the computer services sales tax,” said Governor O'Malley. “This issue energized and focused Maryland's technology industry like never before, and their efforts proved that good people, united in common purpose, can accomplish just about anything.”

The computer tax was introduced during last year's special session called to resolve the State's \$1.7 billion structural deficit that was left by the previous administration. The tax, not part of the Governor's original proposal to close the massive deficit, was ultimately repealed thanks to the administration and industry advocates.

Governor O'Malley expressed in his remarks the importance of building on the accomplishments made over the last fifteen months, and continuing to work together with business and community leaders alike in moving Maryland forward.

“Over these last fifteen months, together we have begun to not only leverage our tremendous assets, but also to articulate our strategic vision. Now, we have to continue to build on the creativity of our people, our greatest strength, to keep our momentum going,” said Governor O'Malley. “We are working hard to develop a major, multi-year initiative to make Maryland a national epicenter of innovation and entrepreneurship. And to ensure we are heading in the right direction, we need your help. Creating those high-skilled jobs, boosting

research and development, advancing new discoveries all depend on your continued support and guidance.”

“The Tech Council of Maryland is so pleased that Governor Martin O'Malley is joining 860 of Maryland's technology and biotechnology leaders at our Annual Dinner and Tech Awards Celebration,” said Julie Coons, Chief Executive Officer of the Tech Council of Maryland. “In particular, our more than 500 members appreciate the Governor's support for a repeal of the computer services sales tax. His leadership on this issue is truly what turned the tide and led to a complete repeal of the computer services sales tax.”

The Tech Council of Maryland (TCM) is the largest technology trade serving the advanced technology and biotechnology communities of Maryland. TCM’s mission is to advocate for the interests of the technology community, further the role of technology in the Maryland economy, and nurture an environment where technology companies can collaborate, grow and succeed. For more information, visit www.techcouncilmd.com

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Governor O'Malley Delivers Commencement Address at Howard Community College

COLUMBIA, MD (May 16, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today delivered the commencement address at Howard Community College before the largest graduating class in the school's 42-year history. The Governor encouraged the more than 700 graduates to embrace the expectations set for them as college graduates and to serve their fellow citizens.

“This truly is a special day. It is not only your last mandatory lecture here at Howard Community College, it's the moment of your strongest promise,” Governor O'Malley said in his address. “The motto of this college is that ‘you can get there from here.’ Your lifelong pursuit of ‘there’ begins today.”

“Carroll Quigley, a renowned professor at Georgetown, used to tell his students as they began each new semester: ‘*The thing that got you here today is belief in the future, belief that the future can be better than the present and that people will and should sacrifice in the present to get to that better future.*’ This idea, this belief that tomorrow can be better than today and that each of us has a personal responsibility to make it so is the strongest civic and patriotic value we share as Marylanders and as Americans,” said Governor O'Malley. “It's what Professor Quigley called ‘future preference.’ As we seek to build this better world for those who will come after us, we need you.”

“The politics of posterity say that the world we leave for our children and theirs can be a better one, but only if we choose -- by our own individual work and investment -- to make it so during our own time,” he said. “We're counting on your energy and your passion to continue moving our State forward, to continue making progress, to use this education you've gained to build for our future and for our posterity. We need you.”

In the fifteen months of Governor O'Malley's term, his administration has established the first-ever Higher Education Trust Fund to stabilize tuition costs for families, froze college tuition for three consecutive years – making college more affordable for Maryland families – and increased aid for community colleges by nine percent from the year prior, and by 39 percent from the previous administration. In addition, Maryland invested a record \$150 million over the last two years in better facilities at community colleges around the state. Howard Community College has received \$24.4 million in funding from Governor O'Malley's first two budget cycles, representing a 54 percent increase from the prior administration.

Founded in 1966, Howard Community College is a dynamic, creative learning community that strives to meet challenges by providing innovative solutions that lead to learning breakthroughs for all students. Over the course of a year, HCC enrolls more than 10,000 students in credit programs and 15,000 in noncredit

programs. Operating under the slogan “You Can Get There from Here,” which students often cite when describing how HCC helps them attain their educational goals, the college provides open access and innovative learning systems to respond to the ever-changing needs and interests of a diverse and dynamic community. Last month, HCC received the U.S. Senate Productivity Award, Maryland’s most prestigious award for performance excellence.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints New Leadership at Canal Place Authority

Chairman Buchanan stepping down, praised for many years of dedicated service

CUMBERLAND, MD (May 20, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley appointed two new board members to the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority today and accepted the resignation of Board Chairman, Howard A. Buchanan. Allegany Arts Council Executive Director Andrew Vick will assume the vacant seat on the nine-member Authority and the position of Chair, effective July 1. Allegany County Economic Director Matt Diaz will fill the seat occupied by attorney Gregory H. Skidmore, whose term has expired. Mr. Buchanan will stay on as an Authority member.

"I am deeply grateful for the dedicated service that Howard Buchanan and Greg Skidmore have provided to the Authority, to Cumberland and the State of Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "They helped set the vision for the significant investments that have been made in the area over the past 15 years."

The appointments were announced during a regular meeting of the Authority today in Cumberland. Renee Bone, Western Maryland Manager for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, was also installed as the Authority's acting Executive Director. She will serve the Authority on loan until the Board hires a new, permanent executive.

"Since the Authority was established, our agenda has been focused on coordinating major capital projects and investments" said Mr. Buchanan. "Finalizing the hotel development project was the last major piece of the puzzle. I look forward to working with our new members to craft a fresh vision for the Authority."

"It's an honor to be asked to serve as Chair of the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority," said incoming Chair Andrew Vick. "Canal Place has an important role to play in the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Cumberland, and in the continued growth of tourism throughout Allegany County. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Authority, as well as with the many stakeholders in our community, to help ensure that Canal Place realizes the full potential of its original vision."

About the Authority

The Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority was established by legislation as a unit of the State

of Maryland in 1993 to spur the preservation, development and management of the Canal Place Heritage Area, a portion of downtown Cumberland. Since 1996, toward fulfillment of the Authority's management plan, 22 capital projects have been completed, with 4 projects underway. More than \$16 million in State capital funds have leveraged over \$38 million in Federal funds and \$10 million in private capital investment, mostly in the area immediately surrounding the historic Western Maryland Railroad Station. Canal Place is now a major regional destination. More than 175,000 visitors came to Canal Place in FY 2007 (a 35% increase over FY 2006) and generated over \$18 million in direct spending. With the 2007 completion of major new attractions such as the Crescent Lawn festival grounds, the Allegheny Highlands Trail, the opening of 25 new businesses, and the 2008 construction start of a new 100-room hotel, Canal Place is poised for even more significant economic impact in Cumberland and Allegany County.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Richard G. Muth as State Director of Emergency Management

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 20, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Mr. Richard G. Muth as director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Muth, who is currently the director of the Baltimore County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management will replace John W. Droneburg, III. The appointment is effective June 1.

“I am honored to appoint Richard Muth as director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency,” said Governor O'Malley. “Richard is a seasoned emergency manager and has for more than 15 years led the emergency management program of Baltimore County. He is highly respected in the emergency management community, and I know he will continue the great strides made in preparing MEMA and Maryland for the next emergency or disaster – the professionals of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency are in superb hands.”

“I want to thank John Droneburg for his commitment and dedication to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and to the State of Maryland,” said Governor O'Malley. “John's leadership has made MEMA better prepared to handle any state emergency, and I wish him well in his new ventures.”

For more than 33 years, Muth has been a member of the Baltimore County Fire Department. He has been responsible for the administration of the Office of Emergency Preparedness for Baltimore County since 1993. In March of 2003, Muth was appointed Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Baltimore County. In this position, he provided Baltimore County residents with a broad range of emergency management services, including the administration of homeland security, the hazardous materials program, advanced tactical rescue and fire department communications. Director Muth has conducted presentations in the areas of homeland security, personal preparedness, continuity of operations planning and related topics at many different levels of government. He also is heavily involved with the American Red Cross from which he received an award in 1998.

Director Muth has served the Maryland Emergency Management Association in various capacities over the past ten years including Area II (Central Maryland) chairman, vice-president, and two terms as president. In July 2000 he was appointed to serve as vice-chairman of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC). In February 2003, Director Muth was re-appointed to the GEMAC and currently serves as the chairman of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). He was appointed as chairman of GEMAC in the fall of 2007.

Some of Director Muth's recent accomplishments include serving as Emergency Management Chairperson for the Domestic Preparedness Chemical Team that is a major component of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Program within the Department of Defense. In 2002, he was certified by the Department of Justice as a Weapons of Mass Destruction general instructor. He has served as the lead communications specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue Team (PA-TF-1). In 1998, Muth was awarded a Governor's Citation for serving as the on-scene coordinator for Maryland resources in the State of Florida in combating wildland fires. Muth also chaired the Baltimore Metro Council Y2K contingency planning group for area-wide Y2K coordination.

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact on the Gulf Coast, Muth oversaw the State of Maryland's response. Providing direction and leadership, he coordinated resources from Maryland to assist in the recovery efforts.

Muth was recently selected to oversee Baltimore County's new public safety digital communication system. This is a multi-year \$57 million project which will replace the current 800 MHZ analog trunked radio system.

MEMA is a state agency whose mission is to protect lives, property and the environment of its citizens by providing emergency management leadership and coordination of response. This nationally accredited agency is responsible for coordinating the use of Maryland's resources during emergencies and disasters in support of its 26 local jurisdictions (23 counties, Annapolis, Baltimore City and Ocean City).

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Governor O'Malley Welcomes New Renewable Energy Company to Maryland

Wavebob Ltd. Selects Annapolis for North American Headquarters

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 20, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley met with representatives from Wavebob Ltd. yesterday and helped announce the opening of their North American headquarters in Annapolis. The Governor met with company executives privately this afternoon before hosting a brief press conference to announce the opening. Wavebob representatives listed Maryland's highly skilled workforce and the Governor's energy and environmental leadership among their many reasons for locating in Maryland.

"It is my honor to welcome Wavebob to Maryland. We are proud to be the home of a company that we hope will play a pivotal role in our pursuit of clean energy resources that help us in our battle against climate change," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "With our highly educated workforce and commitment to environmental stewardship for future generations, Maryland is the ultimate business address for today's alternative energy entrepreneurs."

Wavebob is an innovative wave power company developing technology to harness the energy of the ocean to produce renewable electricity. By delivering low cost power with minimal environmental impact, the patented Wavebob energy converter device is helping accelerate commercial-scale adoption of wave power. At the forefront of ocean energy technology, Wavebob has enjoyed some great achievements over the past year leading to strategic relationships with Chevron Technology Ventures in the U.S. and Vattenfall, one of Europe's largest utility companies and has recently formed a joint venture company to develop a 250MW commercial wave farm off the west coast of Ireland. Ireland is now receiving international recognition as a leader in the commercialization of ocean energy technology.

"Wave power is attracting an increasing amount of attention from both the private and public sector groups looking for lower cost 'green' approaches to energy generation and consumption," said Andrew Parish, CEO of Wavebob. "Our operation and development efforts in the U.S. will allow us to bring this innovative Wavebob technology even closer to current and potential customers in the Americas and beyond."

Wavebob is implementing a robust commercialization strategy that includes an office in Annapolis, Md. not only to serve market interests, but also to underpin product development. The company believes that Maryland provides a unique opportunity to apply unique skills, research capacity, and funding opportunities to ocean energy problems, an area where the U.S. has not yet been a global leader. The company hopes to have 15 employees in place by 2011 and plans to invest over \$10 million locally.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

The thoughts and prayers of all Marylanders are with Senator Kennedy and his family during this difficult period. Our hope is that a man whose life has been defined as a champion for all Americans will find comfort in the enduring love of his wife and children and the endless prayers of those who've been touched by his nearly fifty years in public service.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Commencement Address at Chesapeake College

[[View video / Read remarks](#)]

WYE MILLS, MD (May 21, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the commencement address at Chesapeake College today before the students, faculty, families and friends of the Class of 2008. The Governor encouraged the graduates to embrace the expectations set for them as college graduates and to serve their fellow citizens.

“Today, we honor your struggles, your endurance and your achievement. We celebrate passage. We celebrate transition. And we celebrate a very high and eternal commitment,” said Governor O'Malley. “We rejoice in fellowship and friendship and we pray. We pray in thanksgiving for the gifts that we have as citizens of this great State, of this great country. We pray in anticipation of the joy and the opportunities that we know and we hope lie ahead for us.”

Governor O'Malley went on to inspire the students to think beyond themselves, and answer the call of service to others. “A commencement represents not an end, but a beginning – the pursuit of all things eternal,” he said. “And today, we proclaim the powerful truth that for all of the diversity we are blessed to share, there are strong beliefs that unite us. A belief in the dignity of every individual. A belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. And an understanding that at the beginning and end of our days, there is unity of spirit and matter and that what we do in our own lifetimes does matter.

“The dawn of your future lives breaks today. And so too does the promise of all you are to achieve. As we look across the horizon, dreaming of things to come ... we need you. In fact, there are a lot of people who need you. Your mothers and fathers need you. Our business managers, our economists, our poets need you. Our tired, our sick, our less fortunate need you. Our computer scientists, our visionaries need you. Your grandparents need you. And most of all, future generations need you. Your children, their children, their grandchildren, they all need you.”

Governor O'Malley outlined his administration's commitment to the future of Maryland through historic investments in education, like the one made to community colleges like Chesapeake College. “Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer, we're making record investments in higher education. In two years, we've increased funding for Chesapeake College by 38% -- \$3 million more than what was invested in this college during the same period in the prior administration. We're increasing investments in community colleges in similar numbers throughout our State. Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer... we've fought to

hold the line on any increases in four year college tuitions. Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer, we've increased by nearly 400% investments in adult literacy programs in our State, compared to the same period in the last administration.

“In the five counties served by this college (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot), this amounts to an increase from \$115,000 to more than half a million dollars (\$528k). Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer, we are sustaining record investments in K through 12 education. It’s no accident that Forbes magazine says our State has the third best and most highly skilled workforce in the country. It’s because we also have the third best public school system in the country and we want to be the best. Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer, we’re making serious strides in cleaning up our Bay, we’re investing in public safety, we’re expanding health care coverage to 100,000 Marylanders who didn’t have it last year.”

Founded in 1965 as Maryland's first regional community college, Chesapeake College was developed to serve the needs of the upper and middle Eastern Shore. More than a quarter-century after its founding, the College continues to respond to the growing needs of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties, which compose its service area. Chesapeake College offers a two-year program of study in liberal arts and sciences and career programs.

[[View video](#) - [Read Governor's remarks](#)]

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Governor Martin O'Malley Vetoes Bill, Allows Others to Become Law without Signature

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 21, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley allowed two bills to become law today without his signature, including a bill which formally defines flavored malt beverages as beer. In addition, Governor O'Malley vetoed one bill.

Governor O'Malley allowed the following bills to become law without his signature:

- [SB 251](#) / [HB 303](#) – Anne Arundel County – Well Drillers – Permit Fee
- [SB 745](#) – Alcoholic Beverages – Definitions – Beer

“While these bills today will become law in Maryland, the absence of my signature should indicate to the General Assembly that there is work left to be done,” said Governor O'Malley in announcing the decision today.

“In particular, I look forward to returning to the flavored malt beverage issue during the next legislative session, working with advocates on both sides, to build a broader consensus for regulating these alcoholic beverages. It is my opinion that the Constitution contemplates, and the public expects, major regulatory and taxation decisions of this nature to be made in the fullness of legislative consideration, not through the chance confluence of an opinion of the Attorney General and the veto of a Governor.”

“I will, therefore, be working with the Attorney General and interested parties in the upcoming Session of the Maryland General Assembly to build a broader consensus for regulating more effectively what many would rightly conclude is a fourth category of alcoholic beverages.”

In addition, Governor O'Malley vetoed [SB 398](#) / [HB 501](#) – Anne Arundel County – Environmental Health Monitoring – Reimbursement of Costs, which would have required the Department of the Environment to reimburse Anne Arundel County for the cost of environmental health monitoring and testing.

In his veto letter Governor O'Malley wrote, “The appropriate public policy discussion is whether the Department should be authorized to incorporate reimbursement provisions in the assessment of a penalty, for every jurisdiction in the State. My Administration would be willing to engage in that discussion during the 2009 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. But Senate Bill 398 does not accomplish that public policy goal - instead, it diverts resources of the Department to reimburse a single local government a specific amount for a past event, and an uncapped, indeterminate amount for future events, for functions the County has agreed to perform.”

By law, the Governor has 30 days to veto a bill that has been presented to him by the General Assembly. If no action is taken, the bill automatically becomes law. Vetoed bills are returned to the General Assembly where a three-fifths majority in both houses is required to override.

[Letters from Governor O'Malley to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and House Speaker Michael E. Busch can be viewed by following the links above]

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Governor O'Malley, Board of Public Works Approve \$340 Million for School Construction Funding

Another Record Year in School Construction Funding Awarded to Counties across the State

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 21, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Comptroller Peter Franchot, today approved the final allocation of \$112 million from the total \$340 million in public school construction funding to school systems across the state. In his capital budget, Governor O'Malley has invested \$340 million in school construction funding for FY 2009, another record year of public school construction funding.

“This year, Maryland was ranked third in the nation for best schools by Education Week. As a State, we must continue to protect our high quality of life and ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education,” said Governor O'Malley. “Over the last two years, we've squared our shoulders to make a truly historic investment - \$741 million – in school construction and renovation. I look forward to working with both the Comptroller and the Treasurer as we continue to make real and steady progress on our shared priorities, including the priority of public education.”

On January 30, 2008, Governor O'Malley, Treasurer Kopp and Comptroller Franchot met with Superintendents of school systems across the state for the annual “hope-a-thon.” The “hope-a-thon,” formerly known as the “beg-a-thon” was implemented by the Board of Public Works to allow school superintendents to have a more meaningful conversation with the Board of Public Works on their jurisdiction's key school priorities. The superintendents of school systems asked for portions of the remaining unallocated \$108 million of the total \$340 million in state aid for public school construction funding. The recommendations are made by the State's Interagency Committee on School Construction. The recommendations reflect local priorities, while recognizing projects that address the mandates of the Bridge to Excellence in Education Act.

In addition to making a historic investment in public education, Governor O'Malley, working with the General Assembly, froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so that higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.

The Interagency Committee on School Construction was established by the Board of Public Works in 1971 to

administer the State of Maryland's Public School Construction Program. Since its inception in 1971, the State has approved in excess of \$2.2 billion for school construction projects in the 24 school systems throughout the State. The State in 1971 also assumed \$755 million of local county debt for school construction projects that were constructed prior to June 30, 1967. The Interagency Committee operates under the provisions of the Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for the Administration of the School Construction Program which are approved and amended by the Board of Public Works.

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Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Support our State Veterans and Improve Public Health

O'Malley Signs Veterans Health Bills, Prince George's Hospital Center Bill, Donut Hole Legislation

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 22, 2008) – Looking forward to Memorial Day weekend, Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, to sign legislation that improves support services for thousands of Maryland veterans returning from overseas and their families. Governor O'Malley also signed legislation today to reduce prescription drug costs for thousands of seniors and help secure the fiscal health of Prince George's County Hospital Center.

“As we prepare to commemorate Memorial Day this weekend, I am proud to sign legislation that ensures that the Maryland veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, receive the services they need in the wake of their service to our nation,” said Governor O'Malley. “Veterans returning to Maryland today are facing greater challenges than seen in a generation with repeated deployments at levels not seen since World War II. I want to thank the Maryland General Assembly for working with us this session to pass this critical legislation to support our returning veterans.”

Governor O'Malley today signed HB372/SB210, legislation that ensures that Maryland's over 10,000 veterans receive the behavioral health services they deserve. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the legislation helps veterans throughout our state coordinate and obtain access to services available through the federal government and the State's public mental health system.

The legislation also offers crisis services for severe problems that could become emergencies until longer-term services can be obtained, and creates a Veterans' Behavioral Health Advisory Board to identify gaps in services and make recommendations for further steps to ensure that all Maryland veterans and their families receive the support and services they require and deserve.

“One of the great tragedies of our times is that our brave warfighters are returning from combat without the necessary support to transition back into their communities,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “As a Veteran, I'm proud to be a part of an administration that has picked up where the federal government has left off. We have an obligation to support those men and women who have put themselves in harm's way on our behalf and that is exactly what we're doing today.”

“We can probably never find a way to show how much we appreciate the sacrifices made by our veterans but by providing access to mental health services and protecting the names of our fallen soldiers, we can honor in some small way our Maryland veterans and servicemen,” said Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller.

In addition to the Veterans Behavioral Health Bill, Governor O’Malley also signed:

- HB669 – which expands the eligibility of the motor vehicle excise tax credit to include a member of the military who returns to Maryland from, or on, active duty and, within a year, applies for titling and registration of a vehicle previously titled and registered in another state; and
- SB608 – which extends the deadline for awarding the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2016.

Building on last year’s efforts by the Maryland General Assembly to expand healthcare coverage to over 100,000 Marylanders, Governor O’Malley today signed legislation that provides prescription drug assistance for thousands of Maryland’s seniors. The bill requires CareFirst to provide \$4 million annually to the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program. Currently, 7,500 Marylanders enrolled in SPDAP whose prescription drug costs are between \$2,510 and \$4,050 pay 100 percent of their drug costs, while those whose expenditures are under \$2,510 and over \$4,050 receive help and prescription drug coverage. CareFirst’s \$4 million annual contribution to the program will go towards prescription drug coverage for these citizens currently paying 100 percent of their costs, who are in the program’s “donut hole.”

“We must also do all that we can to ensure that every Marylander – including our seniors – has access to the best quality health care that they deserve,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “I want to thank the General Assembly in working together this session to pass legislation that ensures Maryland is a leader in affordable and quality health care. With today’s bills, we are helping to secure the long-term fiscal health of the Prince George’s County Hospital Center, providing prescription drug coverage to thousands of Maryland seniors; and giving domestic partners equal rights by allowing them to make health care facility visitation and medical decisions.”

“Governor O’Malley and the entire General Assembly have made significant strides over the past two years in providing health coverage to Marylanders to fill the void left by the federal government,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “Passage of the ‘donut hole’ legislation will provide prescription drug coverage to up to 30,000 Maryland seniors, who have had to struggle with healthcare costs after being left out of Medicare Part D coverage. I commend Chairman Hammen and the Health and Government Operations Committee for their tireless efforts in improving healthcare coverage for our fellow citizens.”

Governor O’Malley signed into law a bill that secures the fiscal health of Prince George’s County Hospital Center and ensures Prince George’s County residents have access to and receive the highest quality healthcare. The bill requires that a seven member Board be created to conduct an open, competitive bidding process for the purpose of selling the health care system to a new owner capable of providing high quality, community-oriented health and hospital services to Prince George’s County residents. Three of the members would be appointed by the Governor, three would be appointed by Prince George’s County government, and one member would be appointed by the Prince George’s County Senate delegation for a one year term. The bill directs the State and County to reach agreement within 60 days on the aggregate amount of public funding they will commit jointly to the health care system if the bidding process results in the transfer of the system to a new owner. The agreement would specify the percentage of the total financial commitment for which the State and County will each be responsible. The Board would issue a request for proposal to consider a new owner’s plan, and the bidding process would be completed in time to present the proposed agreement to the Governor, Prince George’s County Executive Jack Johnson and the Prince George’s County Council, and the

General Assembly prior to the 2009 legislative session.

Working together during the first 15 months of the O'Malley-Brown Administration, the State of Maryland and the Department of Veterans Affairs has:

- Implemented the \$125,000 state death benefit for the families of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Funded the Iraq and Afghanistan Scholarship Program at a time when the current federal G.I. Bill is lacking.
- Enhanced the status of veterans in the state work force by providing added protection during reductions in the workforce.
- Established the Gold Star license plate so families of the fallen can honor their service by displaying this special tag.
- Established new full-time veterans service offices in Hagerstown, Bel Air and Charlotte Hall to better assist veterans in filing VA claims.
- Established the Veterans Behavioral Health Advisory Board and funded \$2.8 million in local behavioral health treatment for veterans who are unable to get needed care through the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Established a procurement preference program for small businesses owned by veterans and service disabled veterans pursuing contracts with University System of Maryland, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Transportation.
- Provided the ability for spouses of military personnel to collect unemployment insurance when they have to leave their jobs due to the transfer their service member out of Maryland.
- Allowed credit for taxes already paid on motor vehicles purchased outside of Maryland when those service members return to Maryland and have to re-register their vehicles.
- Funded an \$800,000 re integration program for National Guard members to assist them in returning to their families, jobs and communities after difficult deployments.

[[View full list of bills signed this day](#)]

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Statement by Governor Martin O'Malley on the Death Penalty in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 22, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today regarding the death penalty in Maryland:

“Today I directed the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to begin the rule-making process governing the administration of capital punishment in the State of Maryland.

Last month, the United States Supreme Court held that the administration of capital punishment by lethal injection did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.

The Court of Appeals of Maryland has held that protocols for administration of lethal injection must be promulgated by regulations issued by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and reviewed by the General Assembly through its AELR Committee.

The court has directed that a full rule-making process occur and specified the type of issues that must be considered and the process that must be followed.

We are a free people who choose to govern ourselves by laws enacted by duly elected members of representative institutions. I remain firmly convinced that the death penalty is a costly and ineffective deterrent to violent crime. I also remain convinced that its continued use is inconsistent with the deepest founding principles of our nation and the highest aspirations of our people. But until such time as this law can be repealed I must discharge the duties of this office under the law as it exists, not as I wish it would be.”

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Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Keynote Address Before Baltimore Jewish Council

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 22, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the keynote address before the Baltimore Jewish Council's Annual Meeting tonight, an occasion where the organization will install its newest president, Jon Laria. As the community relations and advocacy arm of THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, the Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) is responsible for securing public funding to support their programs and needs. By developing policies and guidelines for action, through education and advocacy, the Council provides a forum for member organizations and individuals to respond to issues of interest and concern. Governor O'Malley focused his remarks on his long history with BJC, and his deep respect for its new president.

In tribute to his friend, Jon Laria, Governor O'Malley said, "Jon has dedicated his life to *tikkun olam*, and in so doing, he's embodied the notion that every individual can make a difference, and all of us must try. Among the many ways Jon gives back to his community, he chairs the Public Policy Board at the University of Maryland; he serves on Mayor Dixon's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees; he's the immediate past-president of the Live Baltimore Home Center; he's a former president of the Hopkins' Alumni Association in Baltimore, and as of today, he's the President of the Baltimore Jewish Council. Back in 2002, the Baltimore Business Journal named Jon one of Baltimore's '40 Under 40' identifying him at the time as an 'emerging leader.' I think it's fair to say that Jon has 'emerged.'"

Governor O'Malley also addressed the progress that has been made on issues close to the Jewish community. "Towards the end of last year, we met with members of the Maryland Jewish Alliance who identified some clear, shared priorities and goals for the upcoming session – healthcare, housing, protecting our environment, quality of life for our seniors, Iranian divestment. And working together, we've made real progress for senior housing on the Owings Mills Jewish Community Center campus, additional investments in Sinai Hospital, \$75,000 for refugee resettlement, as we were all once 'strangers in a strange land,' a 50 percent increase in funding for the Maryland/Israel Development Center, and additional funding for the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the Gordon Center for Performing Arts and Baltimore Hebrew University.

"Last week, I signed what this Council has referred to as the strongest Iranian divestiture legislation anywhere in the country. So many of us grew up in the shadow of the Cold War. We don't want our children and grandchildren – or Israeli children – to grow up in the shadow of a nuclear Iran. Prime Minister Olmert told me personally about the importance of this legislation when I met with him at Government House this past

fall.”

Governor O'Malley will depart next week for a trade mission to Israel, where his focus will be to promote business relations with Israeli companies in Maryland.

Established in 1939, The Baltimore Jewish Council is the community relations and political arm of THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. It represents Greater Baltimore area Jewish organizations & congregations on social, political, quality of life & humanitarian issues locally, nationally, and worldwide.

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Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to Lead High Level Biotech Mission to Israel

Governor to Meet Olmert and Leading Israeli Companies

JERUSALEM ISRAEL/ BALTIMORE, MD (MAY 27, 2008) –Governor of the U.S. State of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, will lead a high level delegation of Maryland business people, State government officials and Jewish community leaders on an economic development mission to Israel this week. The delegation, arriving Tuesday, will focus on expanding the already substantial business ties between Maryland and Israel.

“I am excited to return to Israel as Maryland’s Governor and continue the great work that has already begun between Maryland and Israel,” said Governor O’Malley. “During the trip, we hope to build new relationships and successful partnerships between Maryland and Israeli companies, as well as explore new opportunities based on our shared strengths, which continue to be our technology and life sciences-based economies.”

Maryland, where the human genome was decoded, is often referred to as the biotech version of Silicon Valley, leading many Israeli biotech companies to have established significant presences in the state. Home to over 370 life sciences companies, Maryland also contains all of the major research and regulatory agencies in the US. These bodies include the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), the National Institutes of Health which is the largest life science research organization in the world, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Johns Hopkins University, the US’ number one ranked research hospital and medical school.

The business, research and investment ties between Maryland and Israel are strong and continually expanding. A significant number of Maryland venture capital firms have invested in Israeli companies including local high tech and biotech players such as EMZA, Defensoft, Icaros, FiberZone Networks, ClassifEye, Innovea, eBIZmobility, LifeBond and Flexicath. In addition, Maryland exported over \$44 million of goods and services to Israel in 2006, representing a 45% increase over the previous five years. Furthermore, Maryland-headquartered Lockheed Martin trades billions of dollars of goods with Israel.

Nearly 30 Israeli companies maintain offices in Maryland, including the US business development offices of Israel’s largest defense contractors, Rafael and Israel Military Industries (IMI). In addition, Teva now has a Maryland presence after its January 2008 acquisition of Rockville-based CoGenesys. Other Israeli companies in Maryland include Controp Precision Instruments, Verint Systems, Vuance, Compugen and Medispec.

During the week-long mission, Governor O’Malley will meet with a number of local businesses and is

planning several economic development announcements. In addition, the Governor will deliver a speech at the prestigious Israel Biomed 2008 Conference in Tel Aviv.

Governor O'Malley is also scheduled to meet with a number of Israeli officials during the mission, including Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert; U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones; Binyamin Netanyahu, Chairman, Likud Party; Raleb Majadele, Israel's Minister of Science, Culture & Sports; and Eli Yishay, Israel's Minister of Industry, Trade & Labor.

Abba David Poliakoff, Chairman of the Maryland/Israel Development Center, a targeted trade and investment promotion organization, said, "Governor O'Malley's trade mission to Israel sends a strong message to Israeli entrepreneurs and executives that Maryland is the premier destination for Israeli life science and high tech companies entering the US market. The Maryland/Israel Development Center is the one-stop-shop they need to find business opportunities in the huge American market."

[[view journal and photos from Israel trip](#)]

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Governor O'Malley Appoints The Honorable Sally D. Adkins to Court of Appeals

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 27, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of the Honorable Sally D. Adkins to represent the First Appellate Circuit (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester Counties) on the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the State's highest court. Judge Adkins will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Dale R. Cathell. Prior to her appointment, Judge Adkins served for ten years as an Associate Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, the State's intermediate appellate court.

"Judge Adkins represents the highest standards of excellence in the legal profession and I am honored to appoint her to the Court of Appeals," said Governor O'Malley. "Judge Adkins is highly regarded for her keen intelligence, her meticulous preparation, her genuine concern for the parties who appear before her, and her willingness to keep an open mind. She will be an asset to the State's highest court."

Judge Adkins has served on the Court of Special Appeals since 1998, during which time she has written over 140 published opinions and approximately 750 unpublished opinions. From 1999 to 2006, in addition to serving on the Court of Special Appeals, Judge Adkins was the Chair of the Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities. From 1996 to 1998, she was an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, where she initiated and developed a child custody mediation program.

Prior to her service as a judge, Judge Adkins worked in private practice, where she handled diverse civil law matters for individual and corporate clients. She handled divorce, custody, and estate planning matters for individuals, including seniors and lower- to middle-income women. She also handled a variety of business law matters – including contract disputes, corporate and real estate transactions, tax planning, and employment cases – for small and medium-sized businesses. Her *pro bono* work included cases for indigent clients and charitable groups concerning wills, powers of attorney, health care directives, small estates, and contracts.

Judge Adkins has been very involved in civic life. From 1995 to 2005, she served as a Director and Secretary of O.U.R. Community, Inc., a non-profit corporation to improve racial understanding and provide training for developing diversity in community leadership. She has also served as a Director of Mid-Delmarva Family Y.M.C.A., Inc.; a member of the Wicomico County Ethics Commission; a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc; a Director of Coastal Hospice, Inc.; and a member of the Salisbury Chamber of

Commerce. She has also lectured at various Continuing Legal Education and Maryland Judicial Institute programs.

Judge Adkins is a recipient of several awards, including the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award from the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. and the Rita C. Davidson Award from the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, Inc. Judge Adkins was named a Woman of the Year by the Salisbury Business and Professional Women in 1998 and has received a certificate of recognition from the Wicomico County Commission for Women. She was also recognized by the Mid-Delmarva Family Y.M.C.A. for her extraordinary service and leadership as its legal counsel from 1985-1989.

Judge Adkins received her undergraduate degree from Lawrence University in 1972 and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1975.

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Governor O'Malley Meets with Teva Pharmaceuticals

Company affirms commitment to Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD (May 28, 2008) – Following a meeting with company officials today at their corporate headquarters in Petach Tikva, Israel, Governor Martin O'Malley announced that Teva Pharmaceuticals, Israel's largest bioscience company and the largest manufacturer of generic drugs in the world, has affirmed its commitment to Maryland. The global company purchased biopharmaceutical company CoGenesys in February, 2008 for \$400 million. Teva said it plans to keep its current operations in Rockville, Maryland, including approximately 80 scientists and professionals working in a state-of-the-art biotech facility. Teva is also planning to greatly enhance its global biologics business, while utilizing Teva Biopharmaceuticals USA as a center of excellence.

"It is a testament to our world-class bioscience industry that we were able to attract investment from a global powerhouse like Teva, and I am gratified at the news that the company is committed to investing in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "Maryland and Israel share many strengths in the technology and bioscience industries and we look forward to working with Teva to help grow their operations in Maryland."

"Maryland is home to a diverse mix of government, education and industry excellence," stated William S. Marth, President and CEO of Teva North America. "It is the perfect place to grow the Teva Biopharmaceuticals USA business as Maryland is truly the home of medical technology innovation."

The announcement is one of the first during Governor O'Malley's week-long economic development mission to Israel, which began May 27. The Governor, accompanied by a number of Maryland business and Jewish community leaders, traveled to Israel to speak at the prestigious Israel Biomed 2008 Conference in Tel Aviv, and also to meet with a number of Israeli government officials and Israeli businesses considering expanding or locating offices in Maryland.

The goal of the mission is to encourage more foreign direct investment in Maryland by Israeli companies, which already have a significant presence in the State. In addition to Teva, nearly 30 Israeli companies maintain offices in Maryland, including the U.S. business development offices of Israel's largest defense contractors, Rafael and Israel Military Industries (IMI). Other Israeli companies in Maryland include Controp Precision Instruments, Verint Systems, Vuance, Compugen and Medispec.

In 2005, the latest data available, investment by foreign-owned companies in Maryland was \$11.9 billion. An

estimated 105,000 jobs, or 5.5 percent of the State's private sector employment, can be attributed to Maryland's foreign-owned firms, ranking Maryland 17th in the nation in the number of those employed by U.S. subsidiaries. Among the top countries with U.S. headquarters or subsidiaries in Maryland are the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Israel and Finland.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., headquartered in Israel, is among the top 20 pharmaceutical companies in the world and is the leading generic pharmaceutical company. The company develops, manufactures and markets generic and innovative pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients. Over 80 percent of Teva's sales are in North America and Western Europe.

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Governor O'Malley Announces Leading Israeli Drug Development Company Expanding to Maryland

Subsidiary of BioLineRx Opens U.S. Office in Rockville, Hires Local Business Development Executive

BALTIMORE, MD (May 29, 2008) – As part of his economic development mission to Israel, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that BioLineRx USA, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of BioLineRx, one of Israel's leading drug development companies, has opened a U.S. office in Maryland. BioLineRx USA has already hired a local Vice President of Business Development to seek out potential collaborative opportunities for BioLineRx in Maryland and the U.S.

The announcement came after the Governor met with company CEO Dr. Morris Laster and the BioLineRx management team at the Israel Biomed 2008 Conference in Tel Aviv. Founded in 2003 by Teva Pharmaceuticals and other leading players in the Israeli life science industry, BioLineRx has partnered with researchers, universities and biotech companies to further the commercialization of promising drugs from early stage discovery and lead generation to advanced clinical trials.

“Our wealth of cutting edge bioscience companies, our world-class public and private sector research centers and our highly educated and talented workforce makes Maryland a natural fit for a company on the move like BioLineRx,” said Governor O'Malley. “We look forward to working with BioLineRx to further its mission of developing new drugs that offer hope to millions of people around the world.”

“The rapid expansion and advancement of our clinical and pre-clinical pipeline, now puts us in a prime position to enter into strategic alliances and partnership collaborations, specifically for BL-1020, for the treatment of schizophrenia, currently in Phase 2 testing and BL-1040 for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction, in Phase 1/2 testing,” stated Morris C. Laster, MD, chief executive officer of BioLineRx. “At this point it has become essential to strengthen our business development efforts to help us evolve to the next stage. Maryland, with its leading research institutions and biomedical industry, was a natural choice for opening our US subsidiary.”

The announcement came mid-way through Governor O'Malley's week-long economic development mission to Israel, which began May 27. The Governor, accompanied by a number of Maryland business and Jewish

community leaders, traveled to Israel to speak at the prestigious Israel Biomed 2008 Conference in Tel Aviv and also to meet with a number of Israeli government officials and Israeli businesses considering expanding or locating offices in Maryland.

The goal of the mission is to encourage more foreign direct investment in Maryland by Israeli companies, which already have a significant presence in the State. Nearly 30 Israeli companies maintain offices in Maryland, including the U.S. business development offices of Israel's largest defense contractors, Rafael and Israel Military Industries (IMI). In addition, Israel's largest company and the largest manufacturer of generic drugs in the world, Teva Pharmaceuticals, now has a Maryland presence after its January 2008 acquisition of Rockville-based CoGenesys. Other Israeli companies in Maryland include Controp Precision Instruments, Verint Systems, Vuance, Compugen and Medispec.

In 2005, the latest data available, investment by foreign-owned companies in Maryland was \$11.9 billion. An estimated 105,000 jobs, or 5.5 percent of the State's private sector employment, can be attributed to Maryland's foreign-owned firms, ranking Maryland 17th in the nation in the number of those employed by U.S. subsidiaries. Among the top countries with U.S. headquarters or subsidiaries in Maryland are the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Israel and Finland.

BioLineRx, a clinical stage drug development company traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, is dedicated to building a robust pipeline of promising therapeutics for unmet medical needs. The Company's leading programs are BL-1020 for the treatment of schizophrenia, which recently completed Phase 2a trials and will be tested in Phase 2b trials shortly, and BL-1040 for the treatment of damaged heart tissue post-myocardial infarction, which is undergoing a Phase 1/2 study. Additional products under development include compounds for the treatment of cancer and CNS, cardiovascular, metabolic, infectious and autoimmune diseases.

The company was founded in 2003 by leaders in the Israeli life science arena including Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd., venture capital firms Giza Venture Capital and Pitango Venture Capital, and Hadasit, the technology transfer company of Hadassah Hospital and the Jerusalem Development Authority. For more information, please visit www.biolinerx.com.

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