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Governor Martin O'Malley Participates in Read Across America Day

Visits School Kids at Eastport Elementary School

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

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 3, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited with students at Eastport Elementary school and participated in "Read Across America" day, an annual reading motivation and awareness program for children. The event takes place every year on or around Dr. Seuss's birthday.

"Reading is fundamental to the success of a child's education," said Governor O'Malley. "I am honored to participate in 'Read Across America Day,' and am especially honored to visit with the students at Eastport Elementary School."

During his visit, Governor O'Malley, who was also joined by Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer and the Maryland State Teacher's Association President Clara Floyd, read a Dr. Seuss book to a Kindergarten class and visited with fourth grade students who are learning about the Chesapeake Bay.

"As a former teacher, I am always excited about any opportunity to read to young people. I am especially glad that the Governor is joining me this year," said Mayor Moyer. "Programs like the Big Read and Read Across America are an attempt to restore reading to the center of American life and culture. Nothing promotes conversation or fires the imagination like sitting down and reading a book with your children."



Building on a \$400 million investment last year for school construction, Governor O'Malley's FY 2009 capital budget includes \$333 million for new schools and school renovation projects in local jurisdictions. The budget includes an increase of \$184 million for K-12 Education, including an unprecedented \$75.8 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index. The FY 2009 budget also invests \$34.4 million in Supplemental Grants to ensure all jurisdictions receive an increase over last year, \$55.3 million to increase Teacher Retirement payments to \$622 million, and \$2 million

for the new SEED school.

“Read Across America” day is a national program created by the National Education Association, an association comprised of 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators, students preparing to become teachers, and 40 national organizations and associations. National Education Association’s “Read Across America” program also provides NEA members, parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to keep reading through the year. Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

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Governor O'Malley Outlines Initiatives to Restore Health of Chesapeake Bay

Environmental Agenda “Most Forward Thinking in Last 20 Years”

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

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 3, 2008) – Governor Martin O’Malley today outlined new initiatives to begin restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and the need for a strengthened critical area law. Standing on the beach in front of the Phillip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis, Governor O’Malley was joined by Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Brad Heavner, State Director of Environment Maryland, among other business, community, and environmental leaders.

“We all recognize that the health of our Bay is at critical crossroads. In its annual report last year, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation gave the health of the Bay a score of 28 out of 100. Over the last five years before that the average score was 27,” said Governor O’Malley. “As One Maryland, we have a choice. We can continue with the status quo and hope that the health of the Bay begins to improve, or we can take action to strengthen our critical area laws and improve the health of our Bay.”

“The state’s Critical Area Act is a law with the right intention but it has not kept pace with development and is clearly broken. We thank Governor O’Malley for providing the leadership to fix it,” said Ms. Coble. “We also want to acknowledge Governor O’Malley’s environmental agenda this year. Critical Area reform, Energy Efficiency, the Bay Trust Fund, and the Global Warming Solutions Act, together create the most forward thinking agenda we have seen in the last 20 years.”

Governor O’Malley has introduced Senate Bill 844 and House Bill 1253 to update and strengthen Maryland’s critical areas law to ensure more adequate protection of the most environmentally sensitive and significant lands within Maryland’s Chesapeake and Coastal Bays watersheds. The proposed legislation would:

- Restore the Critical Area Commission’s regulatory authority to operate with the same authority as every other agency of State government;
- Significantly strengthen enforcement;
- Provide stronger protection of water quality and wildlife habitats;
- Establish new procedures for processing variances; and
- Require updating of the Critical Area boundary -- which has not been adjusted since 1972.



The 1984 critical areas law designated all land within 1,000 feet of the edge of tidal waters and wetlands as “critical area.” The current 1,000-foot area was identified using 1972 state wetland maps, that are still used today for enforcement and variance allowances by local governments. Sixty-four local jurisdictions including 16 counties and 48 municipalities comprise land within the critical area.

To prevent houses from being built near the water, the newly updated law will require a 300 foot setback for all new subdivisions in the RCA (Resource Conservation Area) and will require the Critical Area Commission to consider Smart Growth Standards for new growth allocations. The legislation would also require builders and home improvement contractors to comply with the Critical Area law, and require anyone who builds an illegal structure in the Critical Area to relocate it.

“We need to get serious about protecting the Bay and fix the laws that are good in theory but poor in practice,” said Mr. Heavner. “The Governor is showing strong leadership on this issue, and I hope legislators are equally up to the task.”

In addition to the Critical Areas law, Governor O’Malley has proposed legislation that would implement the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and permit the State to aggressively promote transit-oriented development (TOD) as a smart growth tool to revitalize communities and curb sprawl.

In the last year, Governor O’Malley has taken a number of actions to help protect the environment and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, including:

- Created the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay;
- Led efforts to improve the Chesapeake Bay, signing laws to improve stormwater management and require phosphorus-free detergent, and accepting regional Forest Conservation Agreement;
- Established BayStat to coordinate public, private, non-profit efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries;
- Created the Climate Change Commission to develop an action plan to address climate change in Maryland and rising sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay;
- Fought for and signed into law the Clean Cars law to clean our air;
- Launched the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, setting the most ambitious goal in the nation to decrease per capita energy consumption 15% by 2015;
- Fought sprawl and traffic by blocking the massive Four Seasons development on the Bay, fully funding Program Open Space and restoring Maryland’s leadership in Smart Growth;
- Joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, working with 9 other states to reduce emissions and fight global warming;
- Boosted renewable energy with a law making solar energy more affordable, and the Clean Energy Schools initiative to put solar panels on schools;
- Helped farmers protect the land by keeping farming profitable, investing a record \$8 million in cover crop programs and tripled annual budget for MARBIDCO and agricultural innovation; and
- Passed the Oyster Restoration Act to restore oyster population of the Bay.



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Governor O'Malley Participates in Environmental Rally

Joins Over 200 Environmentalists in Lawyer's Mall; Highlights Environmental Initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 5, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined over 200 environmentalists, advocates and community and business leaders from across the State today at a rally in support of legislation and actions that would combat global climate change, help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, and protect our environment.

“The climate crisis is real. We must act now to reduce global climate change,” Governor O'Malley said. “I believe if we act responsibly and set goals, we can help reduce the effects of global warming, improve the health of our Bay, and ensure that the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we use, the energy we consume is protected for generations to come.”

This year, Governor O'Malley has proposed legislation that would implement the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund; permit the State to aggressively promote transit-oriented development (TOD) as a smart growth tool to revitalize communities and curb sprawl; and update and strengthen Maryland's critical areas law to ensure more adequate protection of the most environmentally sensitive and significant lands within Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Bays watersheds.

“Maryland has a choice of whether to be a leader or a follower in the transition to a clean energy economy,” Brad Heavner, Director of Environment Maryland said. “If we plan the transition now, we can get the benefits of new jobs without shocks to our economy or negative impacts on traditional manufacturing sectors.”

Governor O'Malley endorsed the Global Warming Solutions Act (SB309/HB712), which is sponsored by Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Kumar Barve, a bill that would reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland by 25 percent by 2020, and 90 percent by 2050. If passed, the Global Warming Solutions Act would have the strongest greenhouse gas reduction targets in the nation.



Scientists estimate that if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at the present rate, sea level will rise by over 2 feet along Maryland's 7,000 miles of shoreline during this century when the rate of regional land subsidence is taken into account. Some scientists estimate it will be greater, as much as 4 feet in Maryland by the end of the 21st century. Not only will islands and wetlands disappear even more rapidly than they have during the 20th century, but human settlements from coastal communities to the oldest parts of our historic port cities will be at increasing risk, particularly during storm surges that are likely to intensify. Global climate change has and will result in increasing Bay temperatures and average air temperatures.



"Future Marylanders will remember Martin O'Malley as the leader who began in earnest the clean-energy transformation that strengthened our 21st century economy and saved our children from ever seeing 10 feet of sea-level rise along our cherished coastlines," said Mike Tidwell, Founder and Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. "Today is a historic day."

"The Maryland League of Conservation Voters endorsed Martin O'Malley for Governor in 2006 because we believed he would be a true leader for the environment," Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of Maryland League of Conservation Voters said. "I am proud to stand here today and say not only has he proved himself to be a leader for the environment, but he is emerging as one of our nation's strongest leaders in the fight to stop global warming."

In the last year, Governor O'Malley has taken a number of actions to help protect the environment and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, including:

- Created the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay;
- Led efforts to improve the Chesapeake Bay, signing laws to improve stormwater management and require phosphorus-free detergent, and accepting regional Forest Conservation Agreement;
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- Fought for and signed into law the Clean Cars law to clean our air;
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- Joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, working with 9 other states to reduce emissions and fight global warming;
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- [Passed the Oyster Restoration Act to restore oyster population of the Bay](#)

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Governor O'Malley Swears In New Members to Emergency Management Advisory Council



ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 6, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in 21 new members to the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC), an advisory council that is charged with advising the Governor on all matters relating to emergency management.

"Maryland can be – and should be – nothing less than the best-prepared state in America," said Governor O'Malley. "Making our State safer demands the expertise and independent advice of the best minds in law, industry and

emergency management. I am confident that the members of the Emergency Management Advisory Council will create new ideas and develop new initiatives to improve homeland security and preparedness in Maryland."

Last year, Governor O'Malley outlined a checklist of 12 core homeland security capacities – the standards by which Maryland will be measuring the readiness of its localities and which every state in the nation can use to determine whether they are meeting their responsibilities – including: interoperable communications; intelligence/information sharing; HAZ MAT/Explosive device response; personal protective equipment for first responders; bio-surveillance; vulnerability assessment; training and exercises; CCTV; mass casualty/hospital surge; planning; backup power and communications; and transportation security.

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council was created by statute in 1981, and is required to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31 of each year on emergency management recommendations.

Richard Muth will serve as Chair of the Council. Mr. Muth is the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Baltimore County Government, and Chairman of the State Emergency Response Commission. He is a Baltimore County resident.

The other Council members include:

Timothy K. Cameron – Mr. Cameron is Sheriff for St. Mary's County and a member of the



National Defense Industry Association. He is a St. Mary's County resident.

James C. Chang – Mr. Chang is the Director of Safety and Environmental Health for the University of Maryland Medical Center and a member of the International Association of Emergency Management. He is a Harford County resident.



John L. Chew, Jr. - Mr. Chew is the Director of Emergency Services for Queen Anne's County, an adjunct faculty member for the Emergency Medical Program for the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences for the University of Pittsburgh, and Senior Consultant to the Office of International EMS for the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania. He is an Anne Arundel County resident.

Frank J. Cruice – Mr. Cruice is the Corporate Director for Safety and Security at Perdue Farms, Inc. and President of the Delmarva Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. He is a Worcester County resident.

Richard Lee DeVore, Jr. – Mr. DeVore is Chief of Emergency Management for Allegany County Government and is an Emergency Medical Technician and Assistant Chief of the Ellerslie Volunteer Fire Department. He is an Allegany County resident.

Harvey E. Eisenberg- Mr. Eisenberg is an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland and a member of the Maryland Area Maritime Security Committee. He is a Howard County resident.

John R. Fenwick – Mr. Fenwick is the Emergency Management Director for Calvert County, a volunteer paramedic in Calvert County, and a volunteer firefighter in St. Mary's County and Calvert County. He is a Calvert County resident.

Michael Greenberger – Mr. Greenberger is the Founder and Director of the Center for Health and Homeland Security at the University of Maryland and is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Law. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Joan Hash – Ms. Hash is a Private Information Security Consultant, and previously worked for the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Social Security Administration. She is a Howard County resident.

William G. Herbaugh – Mr. Herbaugh is the Fire Chief for the City of Cumberland and serves on the President's Board of Advisors for the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. He is an Allegany County resident.

Vernon R. Herron- Mr. Herron is the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety and the Director of Homeland Security for Prince George's County. He is a Howard County resident.

JoAnne E. Knapp – Ms. Knapp is the Director of Emergency Preparedness Policy for the Maryland Department of Disabilities and a member of the International Association of Emergency Management. He is a Howard County resident.

John Edward Markey – Mr. Markey is Director of the Division of Emergency Management for Frederick County Government and Vice Chair of the National Capital Region Emergency Managers Committee. He is a Frederick County resident.

The Honorable Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr. – Mr. Mattingly currently serves as the St. Mary's County Commissioner. Prior to that, Mr. Mattingly worked for Verizon Communications for 31 years. He is a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and is a St. Mary's County resident.

Tara J. O'Toole, M.D. – Dr. O'Toole is Director and Chief Executive Officer of the center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Baltimore and is a professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh in Baltimore. She is an Anne Arundel County resident.

Jeanette Glose Partlow – Ms. Partlow is President of the Maryland Chemical Company, Inc., President of the National Association of Chemical Distributors – Northeast Region, and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Notre Dame Preparatory School. She is a Baltimore City resident.

Daniel R. Sadler – Mr. Sadler is Senior Business Continuity Consultant and Lead Coordinator for Corporate Emergency Response Planning for Constellation Energy and is President of the Central Maryland Chapter of the Association of Contingency Planners. He is a Baltimore County resident.

Edward P. Sherlock, Jr. – Mr. Sherlock currently serves as Director of Emergency Management for the City of Annapolis. Prior to that, he served 17 years as Chief of the Annapolis Fire Department. He is a member of the Maryland State Emergency Response Commission, and an Anne Arundel County resident.

The Honorable Frederic N. Smalkin – Judge Smalkin is currently a Judge in Residence at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Prior to that, he served as Senior Judge in the U.S. District Court. He is a Baltimore County resident.

Roger A. Steger, Sr. – Mr. Steger is Equipment Shop Manager for the Town of Ocean City and is the former President of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. He is a Worcester County resident.

Adam Stolz – Mr. Stolz is Deputy Director for Preparedness for the Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management and a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers. He is a Baltimore City resident.

Carole Joanice Uline – Ms. Uline is the Security and Safety Manager for Clorox Products Manufacturing Company. She is a Harford County resident.

Alan J. Williams – Mr. Williams is the Director of Emergency Response for the Maryland Department of the Environment and Chairman of the Activities Committee for the South Baltimore Industrial Mutual Aid Plan. He is a Baltimore County resident.

[[View detailed list of the 12 core homeland security capacities](#)]

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Governor O'Malley, County Executive Johnson Announce Plan to Save Prince George's Hospital Center

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 6, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Brown, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, members of the Prince George's County council, and members of the Prince George's County delegation today announced a structured plan to save Prince George's County Hospital Center, a plan that would secure long-term fiscal health of the hospital, and give Prince George's County residents the best quality health care they deserve.



“It was our goal to work in partnership with Prince George's County to build a world-class healthcare institution for the residents of Prince George's County and the surrounding communities,” said Governor O'Malley. “This agreement will allow a hospital authority to conduct an open and transparent process to secure the long-term fiscal health of the hospital system and give the residents of Prince George's County a state of the art hospital system that they can depend on and deserve.”

“Prince George's County deserves a world-class hospital,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “I applaud the County Executive and the County Council for finding the consensus that will allow us to save Prince George's County Hospital.”

“All of us are here today as a symbol of what can be accomplished when we have a unity of purpose,” said County Executive Jack Johnson. “Government and politics are not always beautiful, but what is beautiful is that we all came together and worked to maintain and enhance a quality healthcare system in Prince George's County.”

Under the plan, a seven member Board would 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 plan also would direct 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 also 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, County Executive Johnson and the Prince George's County Council, and the General Assembly prior to the 2009 legislative

session.

The Hospital Center, which is currently operated by Dimensions Health Corporation, is a 268 bed hospital. Dimensions Health Care also operates Laurel Regional Hospital, a 96 bed facility, the Bowie Health Center, a free standing emergency care center, and the Gladys Spellman Nursing Center, a chronic hospital and nursing center home in Cheverly with 107 beds. Dimensions Health Care has been operating these facilities under contract since 1983. Combined, the Prince George's Hospital Center and Laurel Regional Hospital had 21,977 admissions, 119,999 patient days, 83,702 emergency room visits and 23,369 outpatient visits in 2006. Prince George's Hospital Center provided \$34,791,000 in uncompensated care last year representing 14.5 percent of revenue, the highest of any hospital in the State. In 2007, as a result of the lingering problems, the amount of uncompensated care rose to 17 percent revenue.

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

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Governor O'Malley, UM Scientists Announce New Energy Technology

Bay bacterium discovery could turn waste products into Ethanol

COLLEGE PARK, MD (March 10, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined a crowd of University of Maryland scientists and students in College Park to announce the discovery of a bacterium that could lead to the production of 75 billion gallons a year of carbon-neutral ethanol.

“Marylanders are leading the nation in scientific discovery and technology innovation,” said Governor O'Malley. “We must continue to invest in Marylanders like Steve Hutcheson and in their revolutionary ideas to protect our environment, create jobs, and improve lives.”



Zymetis Inc, a tenant in the University's Mtech incubator program, has discovered a bacterium found in the Chesapeake Bay that, when fully staged, could potentially lead to the production of 75 billion gallons a year of carbon-neutral ethanol. The bacterium, called *Saccharophagus degradans*, creates a mixture of enzymes—through a patent-pending system developed by College of Chemical and Life Sciences Professors Steve Hutcheson and Ron Weiner—that breaks down almost any source of biomass, or plant life, into sugars, which are then converted into ethanol and other biofuels.

At the press conference, Governor O'Malley presented Zymetis with a \$50,000 Department of Business and Economic Development grant to the company.

- Zymetis is the newest company to join the university's Technology Advancement Program, one of 18 state-supported technology incubator programs statewide. A recent report from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation underscored the significant economic impact of Maryland's thriving incubator network. Specifically, Maryland's 18 incubators employ over 14,000 people, contribute over \$800 million in salary and benefits to Maryland households, and return over \$100 million in state and local taxes.



“Zymetis' new technology is a win for the State of Maryland, for the University and for the environment,” said University



of Maryland President C.D. Mote, Jr. “It makes affordable ethanol production a reality and makes it from waste materials. This benefits everyone, and supports the green-friendly goal of carbon-neutrality. It also highlights the importance of transformational basic research and of technology incubators at the University. Partnership with the State enables University of Maryland faculty and students to commercialize new discoveries quickly.”

“We believe we have the most economical way to produce biofuels from cellulosic material,” said Steve Hutcheson, CEO of Zymetis Inc. The University of Maryland’s incubator program and State grants were not only helpful, they were an essential part of our success.”

In the last year, Governor O’Malley has taken a number of actions to help protect the environment and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, including created the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund; established BayStat; created the Climate Change Commission; signed the Clean Cars law; launched the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, setting the most ambitious goal in the nation to decrease per capita energy consumption 15% by 2015; fully funded Program Open Space; restored Maryland’s leadership in Smart Growth; joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; and boosted renewable energy into law making solar energy more affordable, among other things.

About Zymetis

Zymetis was founded in 2006 by Steve Hutcheson, a professor in the college of chemical and life sciences at the University of Maryland, whose research, along with colleague Dr. Ron Weiner, resulted in Zymetis’ core technology. Dr. Hutcheson took leave from the university to launch Zymetis, which later entered the university’s MTECH Venture Accelerator Program. The program provides hands-on business assistance to faculty and students interested in forming companies around university-created technologies. The program helped Zymetis validate the market for the discovery, found office and lab space for the company and helped license and trademark the technology. Zymetis licensed the technology from the university through UM’s Office of Technology Commercialization. Zymetis’ technology is covered by one issued and six pending patents. The University of Maryland is an equity partner in the company.

About their discovery

Zymetis Inc. has developed a cellulosic ethanol production process that can break down any plant-based material into ethanol. The company’s process is less expensive than alternative methods of ethanol production, including other cellulosic ethanol production processes. Zymetis’ enzymes have the potential to decrease the cost of cellulosic ethanol production by as much as 33%, making it competitive with gasoline. If federal projections of at least 20 billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol are realized, the market for enzymes will exceed \$5 billion by 2022. In the meantime, Zymetis has developed enzyme technologies that can be sold to existing corn-based ethanol plant operators today to improve both their profitability and yield by more efficiently using the feedstock.



Zymetis is also working with a waste paper processing facility to turn scrap fiber into ethanol. This work

could result in a full-scale production facility by the end of the year—a drastic difference from the projected five-year development time for other enzyme-based cellulosic ethanol facilities.

About the MTECH Technology Advancement Program (TAP)

The Technology Advancement Program expedites the maturation of young firms by providing extensive hands-on business support from experienced and entrepreneurial staff, access to funding sources, technical expertise and turn-key infrastructure. With successful graduate companies such as Digene Corporation and Martek Biosciences, TAP has helped its current client companies raise \$20 million in funding since 2004 alone.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints New Director to Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 12, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that Lisa Kornberg has been named Director for the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Kornberg has over twenty years of experience as a hard of hearing professional providing advocacy, technical assistance, program development and policy making services to the deaf and hard of hearing residents of Maryland. She will begin her new position on April 9, 2008.

“Lisa Kornberg brings a wealth of experience to the position and I am confident that the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will benefit greatly from her expertise,” said Governor O'Malley. “Under her leadership, the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will continue to provide expertise, access to resources and services and help improve the lives of Maryland's deaf and hard of hearing citizens.”

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Kornberg worked as Division Director at People Encouraging People, Inc., a non-profit behavioral healthcare corporation dedicated to providing life-transforming rehabilitation and support services to deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people in Baltimore who are disabled or disadvantaged. Ms. Kornberg is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) and a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) and has provided advocacy, clinical consultations and individual, couple and family therapy in her private practice since 1994. Ms. Kornberg also worked for the Family Service Foundation's Institute of Deafness for over ten years where she served as a Mental Health Therapist, Clinical Supervisor, and Director of Clinical Services. In those capacities, Ms. Kornberg provided advocacy, program development, service linkage and direct care to deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families, and supervised and coordinated rehabilitation and residential programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

In her various advocacy and program development roles throughout her career, Ms. Kornberg has accomplished a number of things for deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders, including: expanded deaf mental health services by creating programs in several counties; established the Deaf Advisory Committee; facilitated and participated in the re-establishment of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing; enhanced services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals to include housing, rehabilitation, treatment for addiction and re-integration into the community; and developed pro-bono advocacy and treatment to deaf residents of Baltimore. Ms. Kornberg has also worked with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, The Alcohol and Drug Administration, the Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Department of Education and the court systems in advocating and educating government agencies on the importance of providing accessible services to deaf and hard of hearing residents in

Maryland.

In addition to her counseling licenses, Ms. Kornberg is also a member of a number of organizations, including the Maryland Association of the Deaf, Mental Health Advisory Board, the Maryland Association of Professional Counselors, the American Counselors Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, and the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, among others.

Ms. Kornberg received her Bachelor of Science in Recreation Therapy from the University of Maryland College Park in 1978, and received her Masters of Education in Counseling and Development from George Mason University in 1985. Ms. Kornberg attended Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. as a Special Student in the Department of Counseling from 1980 to 1982. Ms. Kornberg resides in Baltimore City with her family and dog.

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Governor O'Malley Applauds Senate Confirmation of State Superintendent Colonel Terrence B. Sheridan

Sheridan Brings Decades of Experience to Statewide Law Enforcement

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 12, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today applauded the Maryland State Senate on their confirmation of Col. Terrence B. Sheridan as Secretary of the Maryland State Police. A 42-year veteran of Maryland law enforcement, Sheridan leads a department with nearly 2,500 employees and a budget for FY 2009 of over \$300 million.

“I want to thank the Maryland Senate for their confirmation of Colonel Sheridan,” said Governor O'Malley. “With his record of success on the state and local level, Colonel Sheridan is uniquely qualified to lead the Maryland State Police and help improve public safety in our communities.”

Prior to becoming Secretary of the Maryland State Police, Sheridan was Chief of the Baltimore County Police Department, a position which he has held for more than a decade. Before leading Baltimore County's police force, Sheridan worked in the Baltimore County Public School System as an Executive Assistant for Student Safety. Sheridan also served for 30 years in the Maryland State Police, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Bureau of Drug Enforcement. In his career, Sheridan has worked in the specialty areas of internal affairs, special operations, drug enforcement, criminal intelligence, and student safety.

Sheridan received his B.A. from Loyola College of Maryland, and received undergraduate and graduate credit through the Police Management Program offered by the University of Virginia and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Sheridan also received training at the National Executive Institute at the FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia. Sheridan lives in Lutherville, and is a long-time resident of Baltimore and Harford Counties.

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Governor O'Malley Highlights Funding to Revitalize Maryland Communities

Community Legacy Awards Will Enhance Maryland's Quality of Life; Dundalk Renaissance Corporation to receive \$215,000

BALTIMORE, MD (March 13, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced funding that would stimulate reinvestment in and revitalize Maryland's historic and Main Street communities. Standing at Veterans Park, in the heart of the Dundalk commercial center, Governor O'Malley announced \$7 million in Community Legacy awards for 73 projects across the State.

“Even as we face a national economic downturn, we must do all that we can to protect our priorities and enhance our quality of life. Preserving community heritage and economic strength is important for community development and revitalizing the communities in our State,” said Governor O'Malley. “These grants help support local businesses and homeowners in improving and strengthening Maryland's historic neighborhoods and towns, and improving quality of life for Maryland families.”



The Community Legacy program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Division of Neighborhood Revitalization. Its mission is to provide funding for local economic development activities that stimulate reinvestment and strengthen communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

The Dundalk Renaissance Corporation's \$215,000 award will allow the organization to hire a project manager to manage acquisitions and renovations and homeowner grants as well as provide funds for market-rate renovations to boost home values, promote green design, historic character, and a mixed-income revitalization strategy. Historic Dundalk is one of 18 Main Street Maryland communities and the only one in Baltimore County.

“We are proud to collaborate with localities and improvement organizations such as the DRC,” said DHCD Secretary Raymond A. Skinner. “Today is a great example of how State and local partnerships contribute to neighborhood revitalization, which creates a synergy between commercial and residential projects that result

in more vibrant communities all over Maryland.”



In the most recent application round, 49 applications were approved, representing 73 projects totaling \$7 million. In addition to the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, other localities and organizations receiving grants include: the City of Annapolis, Southeast Community Development Corporation, the Town of Thurmont, Havre de Grace, Prince George’s County’s Port Towns Community Development Corporation, Frostburg First and the City of Salisbury.

Community Legacy funding, in the form of grants and loans, is available for projects located in Priority Funding Areas and is meant to compliment and supplement other State funding programs. As part of a competitive application process, communities are required to have and/or develop a comprehensive revitalization plan that specifically identifies projects meant to revitalize transitional neighborhoods and downtowns.

Funded projects included housing acquisition rehabilitation initiatives, creating loan funds for local businesses, streetscape enhancements and façade improvement activities. Awards have been made statewide to a variety of local governments, community development organizations.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Marylanders by working with its partners to revitalize communities, expand affordable housing opportunities, and help preserve homeownership.

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Governor O'Malley Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Maryland's Rural Legacy Program

Announces \$22 Million in Proposed Rural Legacy Allocations; Funding allocated to 21 Counties will preserve forest and farmland

UPPERCO, MD (March 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley celebrated the 10 -year anniversary of the State's nationally renowned Rural Legacy Program and announced nearly \$22 million in grants to local governments and land trusts for preservation of forest and farmland across Maryland. The Governor made the announcement from the Wisner Family Farm in Baltimore County, overlooking a vast scenic rural landscape that has been preserved through state and local land conservation programs.



“Rural Legacy and other state land conservation programs help protect and preserve lands, protect our quality of life, our greatest strength, and take responsibility for building a more sustainable tomorrow,” said Governor O'Malley. “Thank you for all for helping to lead this effort to preserve this incredible legacy that we will leave for our children and our grandchildren.”

Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, Land Preservation Trust Vice President Ned Halle, and numerous other business, community and conservation leaders joined the Governor for the announcement.

“We appreciate Governor O'Malley's diligence in maintaining the State's commitment to preserving this irreplaceable rural acreage,” said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. “Preservation of each of these farms has immense value in protecting our watersheds that drain into the Chesapeake Bay, as well as sustaining the county's \$300 million agriculture industry.”



Maryland's Rural Legacy Program provides funding to preserve large, contiguous tracts of land and to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection while supporting a sustainable land base for natural resource based industries. The program creates public-private partnerships and allows those who know the



landscape best – land trusts and local governments – to determine the best way to protect the landscapes that are critical to our economy, environment and quality of life.

“This program is unique in that it encourages local governments and land trusts to work together and determine how best to protect their vital working landscapes,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary and Rural Legacy Board Chair John R. Griffin, who played a key role in development of the program. “It’s a well regarded and popular program that supports Governor O’Malley’s plan to target our limited land preservation resources.”

“The Land Preservation Trust, as the local representative for the Piney Run Rural Legacy Area, is excited by the support of the Governor, who clearly understands the direct connection between preservation of Maryland’s farmland and the vibrancy of our cities and towns – both sides of the smart growth coin,” said Land Preservation Trust Vice President Ned Halle.

Under Governor’s **BayStat Initiative**, land conservation investments are targeted to protect the most ecologically valuable properties that most directly impact Chesapeake Bay and local waterway health.

This year’s proposed allocations include \$21,022,365 in FY ’08 funds as well as \$928,404 in reallocated funding from expired grants. The grant recommendations also include requests to designate the new, 23,000-acre Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area (RLA) and to expand the boundaries of two existing RLAs located in Queen Anne’s County – by a cumulative total of 7,079 acres. With these additions, there will be 30 designated Rural Legacy Areas, encompassing 671,571 acres, in 22 counties throughout the State.



Enacted by the General Assembly in 1997, Maryland’s Rural Legacy Program has to date provided over \$163 million to preserve 58,217 acres of valuable farmland, forests, and natural areas.

The 11-member Rural Legacy Advisory Committee and the Rural Legacy Board, which is comprised of Maryland’s Agriculture, Natural Resources and Planning Secretaries, review grant applications annually.

[View proposed FY '08 Rural Legacy Program grant awards]

(scheduled to go before the Board of Public Works next month for final approval)

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Statement by Governor Martin O'Malley on NCAA Tournament

Annapolis, MD (March 18, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today congratulating all of the Maryland colleges and universities participating in post-season basketball tournaments:

“Congratulations to all of the colleges and universities from Maryland that were selected to participate in post season basketball tournaments. Our entire State is proud of our colleges and universities competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament and the National Invitational Tournament (NIT).

First, I want to congratulate the University of Maryland’s Lady Terps for their outstanding season and a No.1 seed in the women’s NCAA bracket. We look forward to their match-up on Sunday with Coppin State University’s Lady Eagles – who captured another MEAC conference title.

Congratulations to Coppin State University and Mount Saint Mary’s College on winning their conference titles and being selected as the two teams to officially tip off March Madness 2008.

The University of Maryland Baltimore County qualified for its first ever NCAA tournament with an exciting win to capture the North East Conference title, and we look forward to their game against Georgetown later this week.

Morgan State University men’s team is able to continue their great season by competing in the NIT as will Gary Williams’ men’s Maryland team, taking on the University of Minnesota, coached by Maryland native, “Tubby” Smith.

Without question, teams from Maryland colleges and universities will impact the 2008 post season tournament fields. As proud fans, we will loudly cheer them on.”

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Governor O'Malley Outlines Vision for Transit Communities in Maryland

Discusses Need to Invest in Maryland's Future

GREENBELT, MD (March 19, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today unveiled his vision for the development of sustainable communities around Maryland's existing transit stations, while addressing elected officials, business organizations, developers and environmental groups from around Maryland at a luncheon in Prince George's County. Governor O'Malley's vision includes promoting future growth in areas served by transit, to enhance economic vitality, increase transit ridership, reduce sprawl and vehicle emissions impacting the environment and improve the quality of life in the state.



“For decades in our State and in our country, our transportation system has followed land-use,” said Governor O'Malley. “Now, we must focus our land-use where our transportation systems can best support growth. We need to maximize the benefit of that investment by creating new communities of jobs, housing and retail in walking distance of transit stations, taking advantage of the infrastructure that is in place today.”

The Governor described “transit oriented communities” as neighborhoods similar to those lived in by our grandparents where people could walk from their homes to jobs and the grocery store or to a transit stop where they could board transit carrying them where they needed to go. He added that these could be vibrant places where, more often than not, people could leave their cars in their driveway.

Governor O'Malley has introduced legislation to allow the State of Maryland to aggressively promote transit-oriented development (TOD) as a smart growth tool to revitalize communities. The legislation now before the Maryland General Assembly (HB373/SB 204 – Maryland Transit Administration – Transit Oriented Development) puts investment in transit communities on equal footing with other transportation priorities and removes legal road blocks to using state resources and land for such communities.



Studies indicate that residents who move near transit stations typically reduce their driving by 40 percent. According to a



recent study by the Washington Council of Governments, if future growth were to be concentrated at Metro stations, the region could increase transit ridership by nearly 8 percent and decrease severe highway congestion by 4.6 percent.

“We know the challenges our State faces in regards to sustainability, with our population expected to grow by 1.1 million and 725,000 jobs expected in the next 20 years,” added Governor O’Malley. “With thousands of acres of undeveloped and underdeveloped land within a half mile of Maryland’s 112 transit stations, theoretically a network of transit communities could absorb all 1.1 million new residents. It gives you an idea of the existing potential for smart growth.”

Governor O’Malley said the opportunities are particularly apparent in Prince George’s County. While other areas in the Washington region have benefited from development around Metro stations, there is development on only one of 15 Metro station properties in Prince George’s County, even though a total of 2,531 acres surrounding the remaining stations sits undeveloped.

In addition to legislation introduced this year, Governor O’Malley has increased transit investment. In the FY 2008-2013 Consolidated Transportation Program, state commitments to transit include:

- \$411 million to develop new transit lines including the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway and the Red Line in Baltimore;
- \$289 million for the MARC Growth and Investment Plan to eventually transform a rush hour commuter rail line into an all day, seven-day-a-week transit system; and
- Maryland’s commitment to maintaining the Metro system with a \$50 million a year match for Metro dedicated funding.

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Governor O'Malley Announces New Infrastructure to Reduce Congestion in Baltimore County

Project to Help Reduce Congestion in Owings Mills; Enhance Economic Development; Improve Public Safety in Baltimore County

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 20, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced Maryland's commitment to the new I-795/Dolefield Interchange in Owings Mills to help reduce congestion, enhance economic development and improve safety in northwestern Baltimore County. The project has been a top priority for Baltimore County since 1999.

"In Maryland, we are working to create a statewide vision for transportation and infrastructure to connect the tremendous intellectual power and creative energy of our workforce to economic opportunity that exists in our State," said Governor O'Malley. "Today, we are investing in a core transportation project that will help meet the needs of one of Baltimore County's key growth areas. This new interchange project is a perfect example of how Maryland benefits when local and State government work together as partners."

Joined by Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, Governor O'Malley committed a \$28 million investment in Baltimore County to move the project forward. Baltimore County is partnering with the State by contributing \$625,000 to the project.

Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith has made this interchange project his top priority in order to provide the necessary infrastructure for this designated growth area. The interchange will play a vital role in supporting the Red Run Employment Corridor and Owings Mills Transit-Oriented development, which fall within the project limits. Presently, I-795 in Owings Mills carries nearly 73,000 vehicles each day. This average daily traffic is expected to increase to more than 101,000 vehicles by the year 2030.

"We are grateful for the Governor's support of Baltimore County," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "This interchange and the County's extensions to Dolefield Boulevard are essential to the growth and vitality of the Owings Mills community – now and for years to come."

The \$28 million Dolefield Interchange project is just one of a series of projects Governor O'Malley has added to the current \$10.6 billion six-year capital transportation budget. Governor O'Malley announced a total of \$513 million in transit and highway improvements for Baltimore County designed to address traffic

congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth.

Yesterday, Governor O'Malley addressed members of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce, the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, the Prince George's County Council and other elected officials, business organizations, developers and environmental groups from around Maryland on his Transit Oriented Development initiative and unveiled his vision for the development of sustainable communities around Maryland's existing transit stations. His initiative includes promoting future growth in areas served by transit, to enhance economic vitality, increase transit ridership, reduce sprawl and vehicle emissions impacting the environment and improve the quality of life in the state. Governor O'Malley has introduced legislation (HB373/SB 204) that would invest in transit communities on equal footing with other transportation priorities and remove legal road blocks to using state resources and land for such communities.

Other projects funded for the Baltimore Metropolitan Region in the Governor O'Malley's six-year capital transportation budget include:

- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$125 million for MARC Penn Line improvements
- \$17 million for MARC Camden Line improvements
- \$237 million for system preservation investments in Metro, Light Rail, and Buses
- Charles Street / Beltway Interchange to build a new Charles Street Bridge over the Beltway to improve traffic flow and improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians
- \$28 million in engineering funds to move forward the I-795 / Dolefield Interchange, which is a key economic development project for Baltimore County
- \$11 million for streetscape improvements along US 40 from Middle River to MD 43, including resurfacing and landscaping that will also improve safety and traffic operations
- \$3 million to improve traffic flow in the heart of Towson, including the Towson Roundabout

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Governor O'Malley Sends Off 224th Area Support Medical Company of the Maryland Army National Guard

Soldiers to Provide Medical Support in Iraq

LAUREL, Md. (March 24, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined federal, state and local officials today to send off members of the 224th Area Support Medical Company of the Maryland Army National Guard in a ceremony at the Private Henry Costin Armory in Laurel, Md. Approximately 60 Soldiers are mobilizing for deployment to Iraq.

“We are deeply indebted to these Citizen-Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices in the defense of our nation and state,” said Governor O'Malley. “They are well-trained, well-equipped, well-led, and I have every confidence in their ability to perform their mission.”





The Soldiers will depart for Fort Lewis, Washington on Wednesday where they will receive additional training before deployment to Iraq. In Iraq, they will provide direct medical support. This includes retrieval and stabilization of the wounded, immediate triage care, and pass-on care to medical-surgical teams. They also will conduct basic dental, physiological, and psychological care.

“These Citizen-Soldiers epitomize the meaning of the words honor, duty, and selflessness,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard. “It is their service and sacrifice that secures the liberty we hold so dear, and the debt we owe these Soldiers and their families can never be fully repaid.”

More than 1,100 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Maryland National Guard are currently serving on active duty in the Global War on Terror. Since 9/11 nearly 7,400 Soldiers and Airmen have been called to support Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Jump Start and in the relief effort for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Governor O'Malley, Senator Mikulski Host Veteran Reintegration Roundtable

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Governor O'Malley Promotes Awareness For Tax Relief Programs

*Encourages Maryland Families to Take Advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit;
Apply for the Federal Economic Stimulus Payment*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 27, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, representatives of the IRS, and the Baltimore CASH Campaign to ensure that all eligible Maryland residents take advantage of the State and Federal income tax credit and other tax relief programs.

“We know these are not easy times. Even though our workers are producing more, wages have stagnated while the cost of everything rises,” Governor O'Malley said. “I want to encourage Maryland’s working families to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit and to apply for the Federal economic stimulus payment. These significant tax benefits can provide immediate relief.”



“The slowdown in the national economy has affected many families in Maryland and here in Baltimore,” said Mayor Dixon. “I appreciate Governor O'Malley’s effort to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and I encourage Baltimore families to take full advantage of the tax credits that are available to them.”

Last year, Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly worked together to expand the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit to provide additional support for working families that can be combined with the Federal Earned Income Credit to maximize the assistance offered to Maryland’s dedicated workforce. During the 2007 tax year, families eligible for the Federal and State credit can receive as much as \$5,600, depending on income and family size, and those figures will rise during the 2008 tax year due to an expansion of the program made last year. Statewide figures for unclaimed Maryland Earned Income Tax Credits are estimated to be as high as \$110 million.

“The nearly \$30 million in credits that go unclaimed by Baltimore taxpayers is money that can heat homes,

feed families, and education children here in Baltimore,” said Council President Rawlings-Blake. “We owe it to the working families of Baltimore to ensure they get every penny they are entitled to.”

In past years, eligible Maryland filers have claimed over \$162 million in credits from the Maryland EITC program.

“It is so important to make sure that all people that are eligible for tax credits, especially the EITC and the economic stimulus, know how to file correctly for them,” said Joanna Ramani, Director of the Baltimore CASH Campaign. “Baltimore CASH is working with all of the region's elected officials to ensure that no money is left on the table and that Baltimore's working people have all of the resources they need to support their home and their neighborhood.”

“We want to encourage every eligible individual to come out before the end of the tax filing season and to take advantage of the EITC and the economic stimulus payment,” said Julie Garcia, Director of Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) from the IRS. “For millions of Americans, filing a tax return is not routine. Normally their income is either too low or not taxable. But this year, filing a 2007 tax return is the only way to receive an economic stimulus payment. Super Saturday is one way the IRS and its partners are working to ensure everyone eligible receives a stimulus payment.”

In addition to the Maryland EIC, Governor O’Malley also stressed the importance of communicating all available tax benefits, including the Child Tax Credit and the 2008 Economic Stimulus Tax Rebate.

Marylanders who need assistance or have questions regarding their personal tax situation should call 1-800-492-0618.

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Governor O'Malley, Senator Mikulski Host Veteran Reintegration Roundtable

Examines Challenges for Reintegration of Returning Guardsmen

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 27, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and hosted a roundtable discussion with members of the National Guard and their families on the challenges of reintegration after combat at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. With approximately 1,500 members of the Maryland National Guard returning from overseas deployments in the next six months, Maryland faces a significant funding shortfall for the state-run program.

“The State of Maryland has almost a half million veterans in the nation’s armed forces,” said Governor O'Malley. “Long deployments away from home are tough enough for our armed forces and their families to deal with. As they return home from the war, these veterans and their families deserve the support, opportunities, and services necessary to make their transitions from military to civilian life as smooth and successful as possible.”

Last year, Maryland deployed over 1,300 Army National Guard and 350 Air National Guard personnel in support of the Global War on Terror. These brave young men and women have already begun to return and the remainder will return by mid-Summer. Ninety-two Marylanders have died in the latest conflicts with Iraq and Afghanistan. It was reported earlier this week that the national death toll has risen to 4,000.

“I understand the burdens placed on military families, especially during times of war,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “We have an obligation to serve those who serve us, whether they are in the combat zone or transitioning back to their community following deployment.”

“As thousands of Marylanders return home from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, we must never lose sight of the great sacrifices made by them and their families,” Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary James Adkins said.

This year, Governor O'Malley has introduced several initiatives to provide the support that Maryland’s veterans deserve, such as:

- Committing \$3.5 million in the budget and introducing the Maryland Veterans Behavioral Health Bill, that would:
 - establish the State 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;

- Provide short-term direct care services in rural areas where existing federal and state services may be inadequate or inaccessible; and
- Offer crisis services for severe problems that could become emergencies until longer-term services can be obtained.
- Committing \$800,000 to support reintegration of members of the National Guard as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Committing \$373,000 for a major expansion of the Veterans Service Program to assist veterans in filing their benefits and compensation claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Creating the Iraq and Afghanistan Scholarship Program.
- Creating the Gold Star Family license plate to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of those Maryland families who have been awarded the Gold Star pin by the U.S. Department of Defense.

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State of Maryland, Constellation Energy Reach Settlement Agreement

\$170 One-Time Refund for All BGE Ratepayers Totaling \$187 Million; Eliminates \$1.5 Billion in Future Liability for Ratepayers; \$346 Million in Credits Secured; Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility a Top Priority; State of Maryland, Constellation Look to Future

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 27, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Senate President Mike Miller, House Speaker Michael Busch and PSC Chairman Steven Larsen, announced today that the State of Maryland has reached a global settlement with Constellation Energy Group for Maryland ratepayers and families.

“The proposed settlement between the State of Maryland and Constellation Energy provides short and long-term rate relief for our families and helps secure Maryland’s energy future,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “Under this proposed agreement, we have secured much needed rate relief for our families, modernized Maryland’s laws governing our utilities, strengthened PSC oversight, and demonstrated our commitment to protecting ratepayers and addressing Maryland’s energy needs today and into the future.”

Under the terms of the agreement, Baltimore Gas & Electric residential ratepayers will receive a one-time “rate rebate” of approximately \$170 by the end of the year. This refund amounts to \$187 million in rate relief for Maryland’s families and represents a more than 10% reduction in this year’s total bill for more than 50% of all BGE customers – over 580,000 ratepayers.

The proposed agreement, which must be approved by the Maryland General Assembly, ends Maryland ratepayers’ obligations for decommissioning nuclear power facilities at Calvert Cliffs, saving Maryland ratepayers \$1.5 billion in future costs. Ratepayers were projected to begin payments of \$33 million annually from 2016 through 2036. As a result of this settlement, Constellation Energy Group will be liable for these



costs.

In addition, 90% of credits due to Maryland ratepayers – totaling \$346 million – will continue to be paid by BGE. The initial lawsuits over the \$386 million in credits established by Senate Bill 1 will be dropped by both parties.

“This agreement helps us move beyond the 1999 settlement and is a great result for the ratepayers of our State,” said Public Service Commission Chairman Steven B. Larsen. “Equally important is that it allows the PSC to focus on the future energy challenges Maryland faces. I want to thank Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly for their leadership on this issue – without their support this agreement would not have been possible.”



“Governor Martin O'Malley made a promise and he delivered. This is a big win for Maryland consumers,” stated Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

“This settlement represents a positive step forward for Marylanders,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “I commend Governor O'Malley and Commissioner Larsen for working to stabilize Maryland's energy market, save ratepayers from the burden of over \$1 billion dollars in future decommissioning costs and keep Constellation viable in the State of

Maryland.”

The settlement contains additional provisions to help Maryland secure its energy future and reaffirms the priority status of an additional nuclear facility at Calvert Cliffs. Under the agreement, the State of Maryland will modernize current laws to provide Constellation with financial flexibility to attract financial capital needed to expand. The revised law would allow up to 20% of Constellation stock to be acquired without advance approval of the PSC, and removes the “class restrictions” that currently limit what types of companies can buy Constellation stock.

The agreement strengthens Public Service Commission oversight of Maryland utilities by codifying federal authority for the PSC to examine the books and records of any Maryland utility and its affiliates, like Constellation and BGE. In addition, the agreement strengthens BGE’s corporate governance structure by requiring the company to elect two “independent” directors to the BGE Board of Directors.

“I am pleased that the State’s highly-skilled and committed lawyers were able to work around-the-clock to help broker this important resolution that will benefit the ratepayers of Maryland. As a result of their hard work, we avoid what could have been a lengthy legal battle and bring much-needed relief to Maryland consumers sooner rather than later,” stated Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler.

Finally, the State of Maryland and Constellation have agreed to phase-in future BGE electric distribution rate changes. Under the terms of this agreement, distribution rate increases will be limited to 5% and will not take effect until October 2009. BGE distribution rates have not changed since 1993.

[[View Summary of Global Settlement](#) - [View Settlement Agreement](#)]

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