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Governor O'Malley Swears in Maryland Commission for Women; Various Appointed Positions

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 3, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in thirteen new members to the Maryland Commission for Women, a 24-member citizen's group charged with improving the status of women in the State of Maryland. Governor O'Malley today also swore in other various appointees to the Board of Trustees for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems, the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) Board of Directors, the Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) Board of Directors, the Maryland Economic Development Commission, the State Board of Physicians, the Critical Area Commission for Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays, the Board for the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, the Advisory Committee on the Budget of the Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Maryland Transportation Authority.

"This is a fitting time in which to swear in this Commission, as Women's History Month has just come to a close in our State – a chance for us to observe the undeniable impact that women throughout history have had on our State," said Governor O'Malley. "Since revolutionary times, Maryland has largely been influenced by dynamic women – and their legacy of strength, perseverance and compassion for our communities has continued since Maryland's birth. Without the women that helped build our State, we would not be where we are today. I am confident that the members appointed today to the Maryland Commission for Women will continue that legacy."

The Maryland Commission for Women was created in 1965 and established by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1971. The Commission's membership represents the geographical regions and diversity of the State. Members are appointed for terms of four years. The Commission is housed in the Maryland Department of Human Resources. The Maryland Commission for Women advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

The following members were appointed by Governor O'Malley to the Maryland Commission for Women:

- **Councilwoman Helen L. Holton** – Ms. Holton is a Councilwoman for District 8 in Baltimore City and Certified Public Accountant. She is a Baltimore City resident.
- **Alderwoman Classie Gillis Hoyle** – Ms. Hoyle is an Alderwoman for Ward 3 in Annapolis. She is an Anne Arundel County resident.

- **Erum Malik** – Ms. Malik is an activist in community and women's organizations in Howard County. She is a Howard County resident.
- **Katherine A. Perez** – Ms. Perez is Chief of Police for the City of Bowie, and former director of the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit for the Office of the Attorney General. She has served as a police officer since 1983. She is a Prince George's County resident.
- **Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen** – Rabbi Kohen is an Associate Rabbi with the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity. She is a Baltimore County Resident.
- **Melissa A. Techentin** – Ms. Techentin is the Central Office Engineer for Network Engineering and Planning for Verizon and is President of the Southeastern District Police Community Relations Council. She is a Baltimore City resident.

The following members were appointed by Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller to the Maryland Commission for Women:

- **Dixie Miller** – Ms. Miller is President of Dixie Miller Presents, LLC, an educational consulting firm, an instructor for the Corporate Center at the College of Southern Maryland, and a member of the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for District 12 (Calvert and St. Mary's Counties). She is a Calvert County resident.
- **Deborah Risper** – Ms. Risper is a legislative aide to Baltimore County Councilman Kenneth N. Oliver. She is a Baltimore County Resident.
- **Sandra B. Schrader** – Ms. Schrader is a former Maryland State Senator for Howard County. She is a Howard County resident.

The following members were appointed by Speaker of the House Michael Busch to the Maryland Commission for Women:

- **Jean B. Cryor** – Ms. Cryor is a former member of the House of Delegates for Montgomery County. Ms. Cryor is a member of the Montgomery County Planning Board. She is a Montgomery County resident.
- **Susan Elgin** – Ms. Elgin is an attorney with Kaufman, Ries & Elgin and volunteers for the Women's Law Center of Maryland. She is a Baltimore County resident.
- **Roseanna Vogt** – Ms. Vogt is an attorney, Treasurer of the Calvert County Commission for Women, and a member of the Calvert County Juvenile Drug Court Steering Committee. She is a Calvert County resident.
- **Kathleen White** – Ms. White works for the Maryland State Department of Education in the Correctional Education Program. She is a Baltimore County resident.

Governor O'Malley today also swore in members of various Boards and Commissions.

"I am proud to nominate these outstanding candidates to fill key posts in Maryland's state government," said Governor O'Malley. "We have worked hard to compile a list of individuals from across our State with diverse geographic and ethnic backgrounds to continue to help protect Maryland's priorities."

The members sworn in today include:

- **Thomas E. Dewberry, Chief Administrative Law Judge** – Judge Dewberry is former member of the House of Delegates for Baltimore County, and former Speaker Pro Tem. He has served as Chief Administrative Law Judge since 2002. He is a Baltimore County resident.

- **Leonard “Bud” Schuler, Jr., Board for the Injured Workers’ Insurance Fund** – Mr. Schuler is a business agent for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 and a licensed master plumber. He is a Baltimore County resident.
- **Michael G. Comeau, Advisory Committee on the Budget of the Workers’ Compensation Commission** – Mr. Comeau is Assistant County Attorney for the Baltimore County Office of Law and former Delegate for Harford County. He is a Harford County resident.
- **Mary Beyer Halsey, Maryland Transportation Authority** – Ms. Halsey is President and Chief Executive Officer of Cecil Bancorp, Inc. and Trustee for the Mount Aviat Academy. He is a Cecil County resident.
- **David S. Blitzstein, Board of Trustees for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems** – Mr. Blitzstein is Special Assistant for Multiemployer Plans for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) and Director of the Pension Research Council of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Montgomery County resident.
- **Douglas M. Hoffberger, Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) Board of Directors** – Mr. Hoffberger is President and Director of CPC, Inc., President and Director of Keystone Realty Co., Inc., Vice President, Director of LEH Corporation, and Director and Secretary of Terminal Refrigeration and Warehousing Company. He is a Baltimore City resident.
- **Eric G. Orlinsky, Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) Board of Directors** – Mr. Orlinsky is partner at Saul Ewing and a Board Member of the East Baltimore Incubator, Inc. He is a Baltimore City resident.
- **Robert N. Smelkinson, Maryland Economic Development Commission** – Mr. Smelkinson is a Board Member of the Levindale Geriatric Hospital and a Board Member of Columbia Bank. He previously served as Division President and Chairman of the Sysco Corporation. He is a Baltimore City resident.
- **Walter Allen “Butch” Tilley, III, Maryland Economic Development Commission** – Mr. Tilley is Executive Vice President of Home Paramount Pest Control and a member of the Collegiate Counsel for York College of Pennsylvania. He is a Harford County resident.
- **Suresh K. Gupta, M.D., State Board of Physicians** – Dr. Gupta is a practicing physician at Forest Glen Medical center, President of Health Care Services for Asian Indians for Community Service, Inc. and a life member of the Indian American Medical Association of Washington, DC, Inc. He is a Montgomery County resident.
- **Sadara B. Barrow, Critical Area Commission for Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays** – Ms. Barrow is an elected Colmar Manor Council Member, Executive Director of the Port Towns Community Development Corporation and Board Chair of the Anacostia Trials Heritage Area. She is a Prince George’s County resident.

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Governor O'Malley Signs Emergency Legislation to Protect Homeownership

Lengthens the Foreclosure Process for Homeowners, Makes Mortgage Fraud a Crime

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 3, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined with Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, community advocates and other officials today to sign emergency legislation that would help thousands of Maryland homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and to prevent future generations of homeowners from losing their homes due to foreclosure.

"I want to thank President Miller and Speaker Busch for working with the Administration during this session, as we put forward a legislative package to protect homeownership in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "The financial security of our families as well as the strength and health of our communities depends on our ability to help preserve and sustain homeownership in our State. These bills help ensure that we keep people in their homes."

The emergency bills signed today include:

- **The Real Property – Recordation of Instruments Securing Mortgage Loans and Foreclosure of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Residential Property bill.** The legislation significantly lengthens the foreclosure process from 15 days to approximately 150 days making it fairer for homeowners and providing them with more time and notice before a foreclosure sale. It requires a lender to wait 90 days after default before filing the foreclosure action and to send a uniform Notice of Intent to Foreclose to the homeowner 45 days prior to filing an action. It also requires personal service to notify a homeowner of impending foreclosure action and requires that a sale may not occur for 45 days after service. A lender must produce proof of ownership when filing a foreclosure action. The bill codifies the right to cure, which will allow a homeowner to stop foreclosure by paying what is owed up until one business day before the sale.
- **The Real Property - Maryland Mortgage Fraud Protection Act** is a comprehensive criminal mortgage fraud statute that makes mortgage fraud a crime for anyone involved in the mortgage transaction. The bill provides for significant fines and imprisonment for violators, and it also gives the court authority to order restitution and forfeiture and enhanced penalties for cases involving vulnerable

adults. The bill also authorizes the Attorney General, a State's Attorney, and the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to take action to enforce the statute. The bill allows victims of mortgage fraud to bring private action against violators.

- **The Protection of Homeowners in Foreclosure - Prohibition on Foreclosure Rescue Transactions – Enforcement** is an emergency bill that bans foreclosure rescue transactions that scam homeowners out of their homes and the equity they've built. The bill as passed also provides additional consumer protections for people who are trying to sell their homes because they are in default.

"These administration bills strike the appropriate balance between the responsibility of both lenders and borrowers to ensure that everyone works together to avoid foreclosure," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "When homeowners are forced into foreclosure it hurts everyone: borrowers, lenders and the larger community where the home is located."

"Governor O'Malley's leadership and swift action to save homeowners from the foreclosure crisis puts Maryland in the forefront of protecting consumers," said Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller. "The immediate impact of this legislation will protect homeowners facing troubles now, and will go a long way towards preventing future crises."

"Purchasing a home is the single most important investment a family makes," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "It was incumbent on the legislature to act quickly to protect Maryland families from more harm resulting from the housing crisis. I commend Governor O'Malley for his leadership in helping to provide stability in Maryland's housing market."

Foreclosure rates have risen dramatically across the nation, and Maryland has not escaped the trend. In the fourth quarter of 2007, Prince George's, Montgomery, Washington and Worcester Counties saw the number of foreclosure events double from previous quarter. In other counties, such as Kent, Garrett and Somerset, the numbers nearly tripled. Statewide, Maryland saw 9,722 foreclosures, compared to 7,001 in the previous quarter, an increase of 2,721 foreclosure events statewide.

The bills signed today are part of a comprehensive package of initiatives and reforms introduced by Governor O'Malley to address the drastic rise in foreclosures in Maryland. Other reforms include a bill that would improve the regulation of mortgage industry professionals and reform lending practices by banning pre-payment penalties for mortgage loans, requiring verification of a borrower's ability to repay a loan, and strengthening the mortgage licensing requirements, including increasing the surety bond requirement for mortgage lender licensees and instituting a minimum net worth requirement.

"This package of reforms will go a long way toward protecting homeowners from the irresponsible and unscrupulous lending practices we've seen in recent years," said Secretary of Labor of Licensing Thomas E. Perez. "We now have the tools to crack down on bad apples in the mortgage industry and to combat scams that prey on distressed homeowners. I applaud members of the General Assembly for their overwhelming support for these measures."

Governor O'Malley earlier this year also announced the "Bridge to HOPE" Loan Program, which will provide 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). Families and individuals facing the possibility of foreclosure should call 1-877-462-7555 or visit www.MDHOPE.org for assistance.

"These bills will ensure more time for homeowners faced with foreclosure to take action to save their homes

and will help protect them from unscrupulous mortgage brokers,” said Raymond A. Skinner, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development. “At last, Maryland borrowers involved in the mortgage process may rely on a comprehensive set of laws and regulations to keep them from becoming victims of mortgage fraud.”

Governor Martin O’Malley also called on and met with mortgage loan servicers in emergency work-sessions to work toward a public agreement to set a standard for consistent, timely and sustainable loss mitigation services for Maryland homeowners. The work-sessions were called to help find real solutions to the foreclosure crisis and protect middle class families from losing their homes. Talks with servicers are ongoing.

“More than any other federal or state efforts around the country, Governor O'Malley’s legislative package is the result of meaningful consensus among each of the responsible interest groups and will have an immediate effect of preserving homeownership in the near- and far-term.,” said Phillip Robinson, Executive Director & Attorney for Civil Justice, Inc. “I want to give kudos to the Governor and his leadership team for a job well done!”

“The Maryland Bankers Association and our members were very pleased to bring our industry’s perspective to the Governor’s Homeownership Preservation Task Force and contribute to the Administration’s comprehensive mortgage lending and foreclosure reform measures,” said Kathleen Murphy, President and CEO of the Maryland Bankers Association. “The legislation being signed into law today strikes the right balance in creating new and stronger borrower protections while maintaining an environment where responsible lenders can meet the needs of Maryland’s residents and communities.”

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Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Protect Maryland's Priorities

***Highlights Steady Progress for Maryland Families;
Signs Nation-Leading Foreclosure Reforms;
Repeals \$200 Million Computer Services Tax for Small Businesses and
Middle Class Families;
Establishes State IT Department to Make Government More Efficient***

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 8, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, to sign legislation to protect Maryland's priorities and strengthen and grow Maryland's workforce, small businesses and middle class families.

"This has been a session of very real and steady progress for the people of Maryland, even in these difficult times," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Over these last 14 months, we have restored fiscal accountability to our State, reduced spending, and have come together to protect our priorities and expand opportunity for Maryland's small businesses and families. I want to thank the Maryland General Assembly for their hard work and courageous decisions over these last few months."



In his first bill signing of the 2008 legislative session, O'Malley signed legislation that would repeal the \$200 million tax on computer services, create the Department of Information Technology, and reform and regulate mortgage lenders to protect Maryland families from foreclosure.

Last week, Governor O'Malley signed emergency legislation that would help thousands of Maryland homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and to prevent future generations of homeowners from losing their homes due to foreclosure. Today, Governor O'Malley signed a fourth piece of legislation to regulate mortgage lending in Maryland. The bill requires lenders to verify a borrower's ability to repay a loan; authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to set mortgage lender licensing fees and examination requirements; and expands the licensing requirements for mortgage lenders and mortgage

originators.

Governor O'Malley also signed legislation today that would repeal the \$200 million computer services tax to protect our family-owned and small businesses – businesses that make our State a leader in the global, knowledge-based economy.

“In the face of a tightening economy, all branches of government came together to find innovative solutions to our most pressing problems. We made important progress for Maryland’s families and I’m proud of the Administration’s efforts, especially the additional assistance we were able to give to our veterans,” said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown.

“The leadership shown by Governor O'Malley during the past year has been unmatched. Addressing the fiscal crisis facing our state and nation has been challenging, but by setting priorities, trimming the fat from state government and making the investments we need to preserve our quality of life in Maryland, we will continue to be the best place to live, work and raise a family,” stated Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

“Maryland is an example for the rest of the country during these tough economic times. The Governor and General Assembly succeeded in funding our priorities and continuing our progress, all while leaving almost \$1 billion in reserves in case of future economic downturn,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “We finished the legislative session on a high note: funding education, protecting Maryland families from losing their homes, preserving the environment and expanding healthcare coverage.”

Among the bills signed today includes legislation that creates a new Department of Information Technology, which will have policy responsibility for information technology matters across State agencies. The bill also consolidates State agency information technology functions into one department and elevates the department to a level that reports directly to the Governor. The new Department of Information Technology will coordinate, purchase and manage all telecommunications devices and systems utilized by State agencies. The Secretary of Information Technology will lead chief information officers of all agencies to streamline business processes across State government, achieve cost-savings through economies of scale, and coordinate initiatives related to security, disaster recovery and continuity of operations.

Working together with the General Assembly over these last 14 months, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has restored fiscal accountability to the State of Maryland, reduced spending by \$1.8 billion, and has worked tirelessly to protect the priorities of Maryland’s families and strengthen our middle class.

Together, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown have restored professional leadership at the Public Service Commission that resulted in \$2 billion in immediate and long-term relief for Maryland ratepayers, and passed nation-leading legislation to protect homeowners from foreclosure. The Washington Post called this legislation “among the most sweeping in the country” to keep families in their homes.

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

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Maryland Energy Administration Applauds Adoption of Governor's Energy Package

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 8, 2008) – The Maryland Energy Administration applauds the General Assembly for passing Governor O'Malley's legislative energy package last evening. Adoption of the bills represent a major step towards reducing consumers' bills, avoiding electricity shortages predicted as early as 2011, and promoting a more sustainable and diversified electricity supply.

“This energy package not only accelerates energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change programs, but also puts money back in the ratepayers' pockets,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “I want to thank the General Assembly for their hard work in ensuring that we help lower consumers' energy bills and provide clean and reliable energy for all Marylanders.”

The General Assembly adopted all five of the Administration's energy bills. The EmPOWER Maryland bill codifies one of the most ambitious energy efficiency goals in the nation. When fully implemented, it is estimated to save Marylanders \$5.7 billion (an average of \$190 per household annually) and avoid at least three new power plants. A separate bill creates a Strategic Energy Investment Fund to provide short term rate relief and long term investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change programs. The legislative package also include measures to double the amount of renewable power purchased by Maryland's utilities, make solar and geothermal energy systems available to more Marylanders, and require that all new state buildings and schools be energy efficient.

“There is no silver bullet that will solve all of Maryland's energy problems. However, this ‘silver buckshot’ of measures will lower household bills, address Maryland's looming electricity shortage, and promote a cleaner, more sustainable energy supply,” said Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. “We have neglected Maryland's energy problems for too long and this legislative package will help ensure that we are prepared to meet our current challenges and any future challenges that may arise.”

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Governor O'Malley Highlights Transit Development at State Center in Baltimore City

Administration Bill Passes Legislature to Make Transit Development Easier in Maryland



BALTIMORE, MD (April 9, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Department of Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari, Department of General Services Secretary Alvin Collins, local officials and business leaders to tour the State Center in Baltimore City, one of Maryland's most aggressive redevelopment and transit development efforts. The General Assembly passed legislation that will help facilitate and create more communities centered around the State's already established transit centers to help curb green house gas emissions, reduce pollution, and provide a

viable alternative to sprawl.

The \$1.6 billion redevelopment of the 28-acre State Center site in the heart of Baltimore City is a joint public/private initiative led by the Department of General Services and the Maryland Department of Transportation. Working closely with representatives from nine surrounding communities and the development firms of Struever Brothers, Eccles and Rouse, McCormack Baron and Salazar, and Doracon Development, the state is working to transform State Center into a vibrant mix of residential, office and retail space with easy access to the Baltimore Metro subway and Light Rail stations on or adjacent to the property.

"This remarkable project at State Center is a shining example of the power and potential of smart economic growth," said Governor O'Malley. "The communities we want to develop around our transit infrastructure are places where people can walk to work, to the grocery store, and to places of worship. They are places where parents can spend more time helping their children with homework or coaching little league, because they spend less time stuck in traffic."



The current State Center site contains a mix of aging office buildings, surface parking lots and other miscellaneous structures, all owned by the State of Maryland. The size of the complex serves as a barrier between nine neighboring



communities. The redevelopment will create an environment conducive to free movement between these communities.

Transit-oriented development is a development style that leverages transit stations as the foundation for vibrant communities with a dense mix of commercial, residential, and

retail development. By clustering development around transit sites, TOD maximizes the State's investment in transit by promoting increased ridership and enhanced opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle mobility. Maryland has all the building blocks for a nationally-recognized TOD program, with 112 rail transit stations across the State, including Metro stations in the Washington, D.C. area.

State Center represents the largest concentration of state-office buildings in Maryland. Combined, they currently house more than 3,500 state employees representing almost 5 percent of the entire state workforce. State office space currently at State Center would remain in the new development and the potential exists for expanding the state presence on the site.

The new State Center development will include:

- 1.5 million square feet of commercial office space;
- 250,000 square feet of retail space; and
- 1,000 housing units where 20 to 30 percent of those units will be workforce affordable housing.

Transit communities also are under active development at the Owings Mills Metro Station in Baltimore County and the Savage MARC Station in Anne Arundel County. Additional projects are being explored throughout the state.



Governor O'Malley praised the 2008 General Assembly for passing legislation that will help facilitate the creation of more transit communities. SB 204/HB 373 opens the door for more state land and resources to be used in transit-oriented development projects by removing roadblocks and giving new tools to the state Department of Transportation. The legislation creates a clear and defined path for the state, counties, cities, and private partners to work together to create communities around state-owned transit stations.

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Governor O'Malley Appoints Virginia Harrison to Carroll County Board of Education

BALTIMORE, MD (April 9, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Virginia R. Harrison to the Carroll County Board of Education to fill a vacancy.

"I am proud to appoint Ms. Harrison to the Carroll County Board of Education," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "I am confident that her knowledge and experience working with the Carroll County Public School System and her thirty years of professional and civic experience will help bring Maryland schools to the next level."

In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Harrison has twenty five years of civic leadership experience. From 1983 to 1995, Ms. Harrison served on a Program Advisory Committee and Extension Advisory Council for the University System of Maryland. For nine years, she served on the Carroll County Community Service Council, and was Second Vice President until 1998 for the Council. She was appointed and currently serves as Commission Chairperson to the Carroll County Human Relations Commission. Ms. Harrison also is the founding organization member and currently serves as Vice Chairperson for Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality. She leads the annual leadership conference on racial diversity at local high schools for the organization. She has been a member since 1992. In addition, she served was a general member of Education That is Multicultural from 1995 to 2005, and served as a member of the Carroll County Local Management Board from 1997 to 2004.

Ms. Harrison is currently a member of the Carroll County Department of Social Services Board, the United Way's Community Partnership of Carroll County, the South Carroll Diversity Roundtable, the Carroll County Advisory Council on Career and Technology Education, the Carroll County School Ethics Panel, the Carroll County Public School Educational Foundation, and the Carroll County Public School Regional Minority Family Forums.

She has been recognized with a number of awards including the *Man of the Year* award by the Eldersburg Eagle Newspaper in 2005, the *Eleanor Hood Gross Award* by the YWCA in 2001, and the *Nancy S. Grasmick Excellence in Minority Achievement* award in 1999. She was inducted into the Carver Vocational Technical High School Hall of Fame in 1992.

Ms. Harrison is the sole owner and operator of Dressing by Virginia, a dressmaking and design business in Sykesville, Maryland that has been in operation since 1975. Prior to opening her business, Ms. Harrison worked as a clerical assistant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1972-1975.

She resides in Sykesville, Maryland.

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Governor O'Malley Urges Congress to Address Foreclosures; Will Attend Emergency Community Forum

Washington, D.C. (April 10, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today testified before the House Committee on Financial Services in support of the FHA Housing Stabilization Retention Act of 2008, urging Congress to take steps to address the foreclosure crisis facing Maryland and the nation. This evening he will join Senator Ulysses Currie, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and state and local officials at an emergency community forum in Prince George's County organized to educate residents about options to avoid foreclosure.



Today's events came on the heels of the enactment of sweeping State legislation to reform lending practices in Maryland, make the foreclosure process fairer for homeowners and to crack down on mortgage fraud and rescue scams.

"We are facing some difficult economic times which require urgent action. Homeownership is the cornerstone of the American dream – a pathway into the middle class for so many who dream of building better lives for themselves, and for their families," said Governor O'Malley. "In Maryland, we have an aggressive strategy to address the foreclosure crisis, but our ultimate success depends on a successful partnership with the federal government to help keep homeowners in their homes."

The Governor's testimony before members of Congress focused on the need for federal and state governments to work in partnership to adequately address the foreclosure crisis that has swept Maryland and the nation, threatening families, communities and our quality of life. The FHA Housing Stabilization Retention Act of 2008 would help homeowners avoid foreclosure by better enabling the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure and guarantee refinanced mortgages that have been significantly written down by mortgage holders and lenders. It would do this, in part, by providing approximately \$10 billion directly to states to enable them to purchase foreclosed properties.



Later this evening, Governor O'Malley, joined by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, will attend an emergency



foreclosure forum, hosted by Senator Ulysses Currie and the Perrywood Civic Association, to provide homeowners in attendance with information on housing and foreclosure issues. Perrywood is at the center of the foreclosure crisis in Maryland – nearly one in five homeowners faced foreclosure in the last quarter of 2007.

“Owning a home is the most fundamental American Dream.

We must do all we can to strike the appropriate balance between lenders and borrowers so that people purchase homes within their means,” said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. “Education is key and I am proud of what our administration is doing to address the foreclosure crisis.”

“Many homeowners in Prince George's County are facing a foreclosure emergency and, as their Senator, it is my job to work with them and help find alternatives to foreclosure,” said Senator Ulysses Currie. “The Governor's emergency foreclosure legislation will help thousands of homeowners in the future, and tonight's forum is an attempt to help families in the short-term by finding ways to keep them in their homes.”

Governor O'Malley, Administration officials and the General Assembly have worked aggressively over the past year to address what has become the worst housing crisis the nation has seen since the Great Depression.

Last summer, Governor O'Malley created the Homeownership Preservation Task Force, which brought stakeholders together and made recommendations for a comprehensive package of reforms to assist homeowners facing imminent foreclosure and prevent future crises. From those recommendations, Governor O'Malley proposed four pieces of legislation that received overwhelming support in the General Assembly and were signed into law over the last week.



As a result of the new laws, the foreclosure process in Maryland has been lengthened to approximately 150 days, providing homeowners with more time and notice before a foreclosure sale. Individuals who commit mortgage fraud are now subject to criminal penalties, and “foreclosure rescue” transactions have been banned. The measures also reformed lending practices by banning pre-payment penalties on mortgage loans, requiring lenders to verify a borrower's ability to repay a loan and strengthening the licensing requirements for mortgage professionals.

Governor O'Malley has also taken additional steps to address the foreclosure crisis. Earlier this year he announced the “Bridge to HOPE” Loan Program, which will provide small gap loans at zero percent interest to homeowners facing difficulty, giving them time to get back on their feet or find a solution. Families and individuals facing the possibility of foreclosure should call 1-877-462-7555 or visit www.MDHOPE.org for assistance.

The Governor also called on and met with mortgage loan servicers in emergency work-sessions to work

toward a public agreement to set a standard for consistent, timely and sustainable loss mitigation services for Maryland homeowners. The work-sessions were called to help find real solutions to the foreclosure crisis and protect middle class families from losing their homes. Talks with servicers are ongoing.

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Governor O'Malley Tours NewPage Corporation

O'Malley Meets with Employees at Allegany County's Largest Employer

LUKE, MD (April 12, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today toured NewPage Corporation's paper plant, Allegany County's largest employer, and visited with the company's management team and employees to learn more about the company.

The Governor was joined by Senator George Edwards, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Commissioners Jim Stakem, Bob Hutcheson, Dale Lewis, Denny Glotfelty, Ernie Gregg, Fred Holliday; NewPage representatives Gary Curtis, Patsy Koontz, Bill Hoffmann, Vic Prioetti, and Paul Yearling; and union representatives Tom Caldwell, President of Local 676 USW and Fred Hamilton, 1st Vice President of Local 165 IBEW.



"NewPage has been a great partner with the State of Maryland working to expand opportunity for our families in Allegany and Garrett Counties and our entire State. Finding ways to stay competitive to keep these jobs in Maryland is one of our top priorities," said Governor O'Malley. "We have tremendous opportunities in Maryland to bring about sustainable growth for our industries through collaboration between the private and public sectors, and I look forward to continuing to work with NewPage to create more opportunities for Maryland's families."



Established in 1888, NewPage Corporation's Luke operation employs over 950 employees, making it the largest manufacturing operation in both Allegany and Garrett counties. Working to further deepen Maryland's pool of already highly skilled workforce, NewPage is currently involved in the initial stages of a partnership with Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development on a Maryland Industrial Training Program grant.

"The Commissioners and I are pleased that the Governor came to visit Western Maryland," said Allegany County Commissioner James Stakem. "The Governor kept

his promise to make a trip out here as soon as session was over, and he has kept his word. We are also delighted that Governor O'Malley is visiting one of Western Maryland's largest employers and supports saving jobs here."

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Governor O'Malley Announces Decision Regarding Wind Power Generation on Public Lands

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

GARRETT COUNTY, MD (April 12, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that public lands managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will not be considered as sites for commercial wind power generation. State and local elected officials, conservation, business and community leaders joined the Governor for the announcement made from scenic Monroe Run Overlook in Savage River State Forest.

“While we must continue to explore and make progress on creating a more sustainable and independent energy future for Maryland, we will not do so at the expense of the special lands we hold in the public trust,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “Our public land will continue to be managed for the essential environmental, recreational and economic values they provide for all of Maryland’s families and future generations.”

At the direction of the Governor, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources initiated a public comment process in late 2007 that included public meetings cumulatively attended by more than 700 people, meetings with local elected officials and the Savage River and Potomac-Garrett State Forest Advisory Committees, and a 30-day formal public comment period. Of the more than 1,400 comments received via mail, e-mail, fax, online and verbal testimony, 83 percent expressed opposition.

“We are very encouraged by the well-informed, passionate comments we received from citizens across the state, voicing concerns for the health and protection of our state forests, parks and natural resources while also noting the important role renewable energy resources have in our economy, environment, and individual lives,” said DNR Secretary John R. Griffin. “Moving forward, we are committed to enhancing our efforts to manage these public lands more sustainably.”

The decision to prohibit the placement of large-scale commercial and temporary exploratory wind power generation infrastructure applies exclusively to conservation lands held in fee-simple ownership by the state and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The decision is not meant to guide or influence renewable energy development on other local, federal, or privately-owned land in Maryland.

“People of Western Maryland were unified in opposition to the use of state forests and park lands for development of industrial wind turbines,” said Delegate Wendell Beitzel. “We are very grateful for the public

comment and review opportunity of this issue. I am extremely pleased that Governor O'Malley is here today in Garrett County to announce his decision not to permit wind power development on the mountain tops of Western Maryland."

"The Commissioners and I truly appreciate the public coming out to comment on this project," said Garrett County Commissioner Fred Holliday. "It is especially important to have a Governor that listens to what the public wants. Governor O'Malley did just that and for that, we are grateful."

Earlier this week the Maryland General Assembly adopted the Governor's legislative initiatives to address looming economic issues and climate change impacts by accelerating energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts. Specifically, the EmPOWER Maryland legislation codifies one of the most ambitious energy efficiency goals in the nation that, once implemented will save Marylanders up to \$5.7 billion (an average of \$190 per household annually) and avoid at least three new power plants. The new Strategic Energy Investment Fund will provide short term rate relief and long term investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change programs. Additional measures will double the amount of renewable power purchased by Maryland's utilities, make solar and geothermal energy systems affordable to more Marylanders, and require that all new state buildings and schools be energy efficient.

"We remain committed to becoming a more sustainable Maryland by increasing development and use of clean, renewable energy sources," added Governor O'Malley. "Working together, we will implement innovative, sustainable solutions to address climate change and energy needs without destroying the resources that are already providing invaluable environmental, social and economic benefits."

DNR hopes to consider small-scale, non-commercial renewable energy development in the future, where appropriate on state lands to help meet on-site energy needs and economic and environmental goals that move toward more sustainable operations.

Additional information about the public lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources is available online at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/>. Comments received regarding commercial wind power generation on public lands can be viewed online at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/sustainability/wpm/>.

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Governor O'Malley Announces Capitals for a Day



ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the dates and locations of the eight cities and municipalities selected for the 2008, "Maryland Capital for A Day" Program. Governor O'Malley was joined by Mayor Robert Bruchey, Mayor Margo Bailey, Mayor Harry Norris, Mayor Mike McDermott, Mayor Aileen McChesney, Mayor Adam Ortiz, Mayor Diana Fennell, Mayor Walter James, Mayor Lee Fiedler, Mayor Sidney Katz and Howard County Council Chair Courtney Watson. Last year, Governor O'Malley and his Executive Cabinet held

Capitals for a Day in Salisbury, La Plata, and Bel Air.

"I am proud to announce these eight towns and municipalities as Maryland's 'Capitals for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley. "By working together with the diverse cities and municipalities throughout our One Maryland, we can strengthen our commitment to protecting our families, creating new jobs, growing our middle class, expanding and improving education, and bringing opportunities to more people."

"Governor O'Malley and I strongly believe that we are strongest when we are united and there are few better examples of our united efforts than those we embark upon with local government," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "We look forward to visiting Maryland's towns and cities and strengthening those partnerships that make our one Maryland so strong."

"On behalf of all of the municipalities across the state we applaud Governor O'Malley for initiating a program that brings the state's top leadership to our local communities," said Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz. "We welcome the opportunity to show the innovative and effective ways in which we govern, and we look forward to the wonderful synergy that this program will undoubtedly create between state and local government."

Over the course of the next eight months, Governor O'Malley and his Executive Cabinet will visit and run State government from the following towns and municipalities:

- May 2008 – Hagerstown, Washington County
- June 2008 – Chestertown, Kent County
- July 2008 – Leonardtown, St. Mary's County
- August 2008 – Pocomoke City, Worcester County



- September 2008 – Port Towns, Prince George's County (Cottage City, Edmonston, Colmar Manor, and Bladensburg)
- October 2008 – Cumberland, Allegany County
- November 2008 – Gaithersburg, Montgomery County
- December 2008 – Ellicott City, Howard County



“Having spent over 30 years working in local government, I truly understand and appreciate the value of strong local connections,” said DBED Secretary Dave Edgerley. “My staff and I look forward to the upcoming ‘Capital For A Day’ visits so we can see some of the local projects and priorities that are moving One Maryland forward.”

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Governor O'Malley Swears in Director of the Office of The Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Members of the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in Lisa Kornberg as Director for the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and six members to the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees.

"I am honored to swear in Lisa Kornberg as Director for the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing," said Governor O'Malley. "Ms. 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 continue to provide expertise, access to resources and services and help improve the lives of Maryland's deaf and hard of hearing citizens under her leadership."

Ms. Kornberg is the former Division Director for People Encouraging People, Inc. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Ms. Kornberg received her Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Therapy from the University of Maryland and received her Masters of Education in Counseling and Development from George Mason University. She also studied counseling at Gallaudet University. She is a Baltimore City resident.

Governor O'Malley also swore in members to the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees. The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) in 1992 to make affordable housing more available throughout the State of Maryland. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees and staffed by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. A portion of the interest generated by title company escrow provides the funding for MAHT.

"Homeownership in our state and in our country is the key to a stronger, growing middle class, and we must do all that we can to protect homeownership throughout Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "I am confident that these members will help Marylanders make homeownership a reality through affordable housing options."

The members include:

Dale R. McArdle is the Director of Housing Services for Associated Catholic Charities of Baltimore and a

member of the Baltimore City Human Services Commission. He is also a Board Member of the Bon Secours Hospital Foundation. He is a Baltimore City resident.

Eric C. Brown is Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis and a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Beechtree Community Association. He is a Baltimore City resident.

Paul K. Casey, Esquire is Partner at Ballard Spahr Andrews Ingersoll and practice Group Co-Leader of their Housing Group and a member of the Howard County Housing and Community Development Board. He is a Howard County resident.

Bert J. Hash, Jr. is President and CEO of the Municipal Employees Credit Union of Baltimore and is a Howard County resident.

The Honorable Diana M. Fennell is Mayor of Colmar Manor and Vice President of the Maryland Black Mayor's Association. She is a Prince George's County resident.

Linda L. Rose is Vice President and Maryland State Manager for Chicago Title Insurance Company. She is an Anne Arundel County resident.

Kenneth Banks is President of Banks Contracting Company and Co-Chair of the Mayor's Transportation Investment Committee. He is a Baltimore County resident.

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Governors O'Malley and Kaine Announce Joint Effort to Rebuild Blue Crab Populations

Direct state regulators, scientists to implement management strategies to revive imperiled fishery



COLONIAL BEACH, Va. (April 15, 2008) – Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced their commitment to work together to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay's beleaguered blue crab population by directing state regulators and scientists to implement management strategies to revive the imperiled fishery.

Governor O'Malley and Governor Kaine made their historic announcement on the banks of the Potomac River moments

after they were briefed by state scientists on the results of this year's winter dredge survey, an annual look at the health of the blue crab stock and the most reliable predictor of the upcoming season's crab harvest numbers. Environmental scientists estimate that more than 60 percent of the Bay's crab population was harvested in 2007.

"Governor Kaine and I have directed our regulatory agencies to take immediate steps to reduce the 2008 female harvest of blue crabs by 34 percent, and to develop long-term management strategies to ensure that the blue crab and the economy it supports continue to be an important part of our culture for generations to come," said Governor O'Malley.

At a meeting with representatives of Maryland's blue crab industry on Monday night, Governor O'Malley announced his intention to work closely with them to mitigate short term economic impacts resulting from this action. The Governor is also working with his cabinet to explore other economic relief opportunities for watermen and crab processors and their employees.

"Ten to fifteen years ago we were harvesting 33 to 35 million pounds of crabs per year here in Maryland. Landings now average 22 to 25 million pounds — a drop of nearly one-third. This lost economic opportunity is unacceptable," said Governor O'Malley.

Scientists from both states have been concerned about the abundance of the shared resource for several years, as populations and harvest numbers have dropped. Continued high fishing rates, particularly targeted to mature, egg-bearing female crabs during their fall migration, have delayed recovery and increased risk.

“Our review today of the 2007/2008 winter dredge survey results has confirmed that the Chesapeake Bay’s blue crab population is suffering near historic lows in spawning stock and unacceptably high fishing rates,” said the Governors in a joint statement (attached).

“Our most valuable commercial fishery is in danger of an economic collapse. Maryland and Virginia must act now, and we must act together, to reduce harvest pressure on blue crabs immediately, and in so doing, protect both the biological and the economic sustainability of our shared resource.”

Maryland and Virginia have had a shared harvest target of 46 percent since 2001. Scientists estimate that the combination of low abundance of crabs and continuing high fishing pressure led to more than 60 percent of the Bay’s crab population being harvested in 2007.

“We know that we cannot rebuild the blue crab population without an economic impact to those who rely on this fishery for their livelihoods,” said Governor O’Malley. “However, Maryland is committed to working with our stakeholders to mitigate this impact.”

“The blue crab is a resilient species and through effective management and this critical partnership with Virginia, we will be able to rebuild our population quickly to ensure the future of this iconic resource and Maryland’s blue crab industry.”

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is currently working with stakeholders to review a range of management options to achieve a reduction of 34 percent in the harvest of female crabs. This will lead to a projected increase of 20-26 million female crabs left in the bay to spawn and provide the best opportunity for a quick rebound of the population. Proposed regulations are expected to be submitted later this month.

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Governor O'Malley Signs Special Election Legislation for 4th Congressional District

Sets Date for Special General Election to Fill Vacant Seat

Annapolis, MD (April 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined with Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown today to sign emergency legislation that would allow the State of Maryland to hold a special election in Maryland's 4th Congressional District to fill the House of Representative's seat vacated by the Honorable Albert R. Wynn. In compliance with HB 1627 Election Law - Special Congressional Election, Governor O'Malley will issue a proclamation tomorrow setting June 17, 2008 as the date for a special general election in Maryland's 4th Congressional District.

"At a time when our families are struggling to deal with a recession and national foreclosure crisis they must have representation in the United States Congress," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "I want to thank the Maryland General Assembly for passing this legislation to allow us to move forward with this special general election in Maryland's 4th Congressional District."

"I commend the Governor for putting forward legislation to ensure Congressional representation for the citizens of the Fourth District while saving Maryland taxpayers the cost of a primary election," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "The people of Maryland deserve rigorous representation to tackle the tough issues in Washington."

"The people of the Fourth Congressional District deserve continuous representation in Congress," stated Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. "The Governor's decisive and swift action will allow the voice of the people of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties to be heard in Washington during these challenging times."

House Bill 1627 allows the Governor, if the office of Representative in Congress becomes vacant, or will become vacant due to resignation, after the date of the regular primary election, to issue a proclamation providing only for a special general election (with no preceding primary) to be held to fill the vacancy. The bill specifies the manner in which candidates are nominated for such an election in addition to powers and requirements of the State Administrator of Elections with respect to administering the special general election. The Governor's proclamation must specify the date of the election, which must be at least 36 days after the proclamation, and must also specify related candidacy, nomination, and petition filing deadlines.

Governor O'Malley will issue the Proclamation that will set the special general election to be held on June 17, 2008.

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Governor O'Malley Names James A. Adkins as Next Adjutant General for State of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 18, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Brigadier General James A. Adkins as Adjutant General for the State of Maryland. Brigadier General Adkins will replace retiring Major General Bruce F. Tuxill. He will oversee the Maryland Military Department which includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Maryland Defense Force.

"I am honored to appoint Brigadier General Adkins as Adjutant General to the State of Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "Under his leadership, the Department of Veterans Affairs has reached out to support the many veterans returning from abroad and their families. In his expanded role as Adjutant General, he will oversee mobilization and prepare Maryland's Military Department for war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and national and state emergencies. Brigadier General Adkins will provide leadership and support to the over nine thousand men and women – and their families – who make up the Maryland Military Department."

"I also want to thank General Tuxill for his years of service to the Citizens of Maryland and our nation," the Governor said, adding that General Tuxill has overseen the largest overseas deployment of Maryland Army National Guardsmen since World War II. "I thank him for his leadership during our transition and wish him well in his retirement."

General Tuxill is scheduled to retire on June 1, 2008 and a formal ceremony will be held on June 7, 2008 to formally install General Adkins as the new adjutant general. General Adkins' appointment must be approved by the Maryland State Senate.

Brigadier General James A. Adkins was sworn in as Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Maryland by Governor Martin O'Malley on May 9, 2007. In this position he oversees the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and serves in the Governor's Cabinet as the state's key advisor for veteran issues. Previous assignments in the Department of Veterans Affairs include Director of the Cemetery and Memorial Programs and Deputy Secretary.

General Adkins was born in Cambridge and grew up in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Prior to entering the US Army, he served two years with the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office.

"Jim Adkins has a long and distinguished military career and is an excellent person to lead the Maryland National Guard," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "I am confident he will meet and exceed the high

expectations the O'Malley-Brown Administration has for him.”

During his military career, Adkins graduated from the Defense Language Institute’s Russian Language Program in Monterey, California and served in intelligence, infantry and cavalry assignments in the United States and abroad. His military assignments included two tours in military support to civil authorities where he was responsible for counter-drug and emergency management operations. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he assisted the former Soviet Republic of Estonia in its transition to democracy as a coordinator for the US European Command's Partnership for Peace Program. General Adkins held numerous command and staff assignments in the Maryland Army National Guard and also had tours as the Maryland Military Department's Director of Installations, Chief of Staff and Assistant Adjutant General for State Operations with responsibility for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. He was also a member of the US Attorney's Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Committee.

General Adkins served in both the enlisted and officer ranks. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross and the Order of the White Cross from the Republic of Estonia.

In addition to Russian language training, his military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Fort Benning, Georgia, the US Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of the State of New York and a Master’s degree from Washington College.

General Adkins is a member of numerous organizations including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, US Army War College Alumni Association, 2nd Armored Division Association, 29th Infantry Division Association, Military Intelligence Corps Association and the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association. He and his wife, the former Mary Anne Luce of Crisfield, reside in Cambridge.

Prior to his position as the adjutant general for the state of Maryland, Major General Bruce F. Tuxill was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1968. During his tenure as the 175th Fighter Group commander, the unit was the first to introduce the A-10 aircraft and its capabilities into the southern region in support of Exercise CORONET COVE in Panama in February 1985; GUNSMOKE ’91 champions; and in 1993 the first Air National Guard unit to receive an operational readiness inspection during a Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise.

General Tuxill served as the assistant adjutant general for air, Headquarters, Maryland Air National Guard and as the Air National Guard assistant to the commander, United States Air Forces, Europe (USAFE). As the Air National Guard assistant, he served as the advisor on Air National Guard forces trained to support USAFE after mobilization. He assisted the USAFE commander in the development of plans for peacetime training missions to enhance Air National Guard capability for wartime employment.

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Governor O'Malley, City Leaders Celebrate Restoration of Contaminated Masonville Waterfront

Officials Break Ground for Environmental Education Center on Site

BALTIMORE, MD (April 21, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley was joined by Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon, community leaders and area elected officials at a ceremony today to break ground on the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. The center is part of a \$153 million restoration project that will transform one of Baltimore Harbor's most contaminated sites into an area that will benefit wildlife, local residents, and the port industry.



“This project is a wonderful example of how government and local communities can work together to produce something positive,” said Governor O'Malley. “For years, this was an area that was unclean, unkempt, and unsafe. Very soon, it will be a place to learn about the environment, to spot wildlife, and enjoy outdoor recreation using some of our state's beautiful natural resources.”

In addition to the education center, the Masonville restoration project will include: a new environmental park and wildlife area; a series of hiker / biker trails that will provide local residents access to the Patapsco River at Masonville Cove; a boat ramp limited to non-power boats including kayaks and canoes; improvements to stream and fish habitat; and, trash interceptors that will keep stormwater runoff trash from entering Baltimore Harbor. Maryland Environmental Service will manage the project.

“I am very excited about the opening of the Masonville Environmental Education Center,” remarked Mayor Dixon. “The Chesapeake Bay and the river systems that feed it are some of our most precious assets. This education center will help us teach young people about how the environment affects us, and what we can do to preserve it. I thank the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Port Administration for creating this wonderful resource.”

The MPA has been actively assisted in this project by the Members of the Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn and the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Coalition. Since the beginning, representatives told the MPA that one

of their reasons for supporting this initiative was to show their children the importance of caring for the environment. One key request made by the communities was for easy access to enjoy the waterfront.

“We are so excited to have reached this stage in the development of this unique urban park,” remarked Carol Eshelman, executive director of the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Coalition. “The Masonville Cove Nature Center will provide Brooklyn and Curtis Bay residents waterfront access for the first time in decades.”

Last year, the MPA began cleaning up approximately 22 acres of shoreline along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Already, about 30,000 tons of trash and debris have been removed, with about 10,000 additional tons yet to be cleared. Some of the debris dates back more than a century to the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. To date, the clean-up has included the removal of:

- 199,947 gallons of petroleum-tainted water;
- 6,250 tons of timber;
- 122 tons of concrete rubble; and
- 2,047 pounds of PCB-containing electrical equipment.



Besides trash, there are also 25 abandoned vessels located in the water at the site. The site is the former home of Kurt Iron and Metal and the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Company.

In December 2007, the Masonville restoration project was awarded the 2007 Mayor's Business Recognition award by the Greater Baltimore Committee. The award is given annually to organizations that have demonstrated outstanding community service and significantly improved the City of Baltimore.

The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center will be a “near-zero, net-energy” building. This designation includes using the latest environmental advances to operate the building. Examples of this are using a ground source HVAC system and solar energy power. The center will have many other “green” features incorporated into the design and construction, including fresh air energy recovery, recyclable materials, and efficient building standards with minimal energy input. The center is scheduled to be open to the public by the end of December 2008.

“The Masonville Cove Environmental Center is a great new resource for the Baltimore City Public School System. Our teachers and students can expand their classrooms from four walls to the entire local urban environment,” said Dr. Andres A. Alonso, CEO, Baltimore City Public School System.

Citizens and students from local schools will be the key groups taking advantage of the environmental education center. Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium in Baltimore will be developing and running the education programs for the center.

“Living Classrooms Foundation is excited to play a key role in the partnership to provide unique, urban environmental education programs that will benefit students across Maryland and the residents of local communities,” said James Piper Bond, president and CEO of Living Classrooms Foundation. “Baltimore City school children will lead many important initiatives that will support their academic learning while improving the environment.”

“The National Aquarium in Baltimore is pleased to partner with the Maryland Port Administration on this project and lead the effort in restoring another part of the city's wetland,” says David Pittenger, the

Aquarium's executive director. "Wetlands are essential to the vitality of the Chesapeake Bay, and by involving the community in restoration projects that are in their own backyard, people connect with the Bay and develop a vested interest in protecting it for future generations."

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Governor O'Malley Celebrates Earth Day with Students from Across Maryland; Testifies in Support of Federal No Child Left Inside Act; Signs Executive Order Establishing Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

LAUREL, MD (April 22, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Congressman John Sarbanes to celebrate Earth Day by highlighting the need to expand environmental education to help children lead healthier lives and become good environmental stewards. The Governor testified at the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education's field hearing held today at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge on the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (H.R. 3036), federal legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Sarbanes.



“Environmental education is an essential component of ensuring that our children have a sense of connection to the natural environment, possess problem-solving skills and become responsible and engaged individuals, professionals, and parents,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “Maryland is committed to ensuring that every school-aged child has the opportunity to learn about, learn from and connect with the natural environment through first hand experiences outdoors.”

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 introduced by Congressman Sarbanes makes environmental education grants available for student activities and teacher trainings to states that develop state-wide environmental literacy plans.

“Adoption of the federal No Child Left Inside Act will help students in every state, regardless of socio-economic status, have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. It will also provide much needed federal funding to help our teachers be prepared provide these experiences for our children,” said O'Malley.



Governor O'Malley today also announced his signing of an Executive Order establishing the Maryland Partnership for



Children in Nature, a coalition of state, local, private and non-profit partners charged with promoting the well-being of youth by accelerating environmental learning and expanding opportunities for outdoor experiences.

“Maryland’s natural environment is a wonderful resource for childhood learning,” said Governor O’Malley. “This Executive Order outlines our plan — and underscores our

commitment -- to ensure Maryland children make a strong connection with our natural world and learn about environmental issues so they can grow to become healthy adults and informed and responsible stewards. Maryland intends to be a national leader in giving every school-aged child an opportunity to learn about our environment and to learn from nature.”

The Partnership will be co-chaired by Maryland Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin and Maryland Education Secretary Nancy S. Grasmick. Other members will include representatives from the environmental and education communities as well as local government, businesses, youth-based organizations and the pediatric medical field.

The Executive Order tasks the Partnership with creating an environmental literacy plan for Maryland students, increasing opportunities for structured outdoor learning through programming on state parks and other conservation lands, and enhancing school and community natural areas to provide for structured and unstructured play. The partnership is also tasked with devising a method to track increased time spent in nature by children and identifying opportunities and barriers to implement programs.

Another goal of the Partnership will be to increase opportunities for outdoor learning by connecting existing natural resources camps and other outdoor programs to state learning standards, and by increasing minority visitation to public conservation lands.

In addition, the Partnership is tasked with finding ways to provide increased opportunities structured and unstructured time in natural settings for both play and learning -- connecting communities with parks via walk-able trails, improving natural play zones in undeveloped pockets of urban and suburban neighborhoods, and expanding schoolyard habitat programs.

“While Maryland is fortunate to have environmental issues already integrated into our learning standards, we can and must go farther,” said Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin. “This plan will examine model outdoor programs, model curriculum and professional development opportunities for teachers, and will also look at standards to make sure we are producing environmentally literate graduates.”

[[View executive order](#) - [Read Governor’s prepared testimony](#) - [C-span video](#)]

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Statement by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley on Blue Crab Management Decisions by Virginia

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 23, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement today regarding Virginia's efforts to assist in the rebuilding of the Blue Crab population in the Chesapeake Bay:

"I want to thank Governor Kaine and his staff for their leadership and partnership with Maryland on their historic efforts to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay blue crab fishery."

"When Governor Kaine and I met in Colonial Beach on April 15, we made a commitment to work together to reduce the harvest of female crabs by 34 percent this year. By agreeing to close the fall crab fishery early, Virginia's actions confirm that we are on the right course, and strengthens our resolve to ensure that our own regulatory measures, proposed earlier this week, are put in place according to plan."

"These are not easy decisions to make. We are greatly concerned about the impact of these actions on our watermen and our processing industry, and we remain committed to identifying opportunities to mitigate this economic impact. However, these actions are necessary if we are to ensure a sustainable blue crab fishery for future generations."

"I am very proud of the partnership that we have developed with Virginia on this issue, and look forward to collaborating on other issues critical to health of the treasured resource we share, the Chesapeake Bay."

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Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Protect Maryland's Environment, Chesapeake Bay; Help Secure Maryland's Energy Future

O'Malley Signs BGE Settlement Worth Nearly \$2 Billion for Maryland Ratepayers

BALTIMORE, MD (April 24, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, to sign legislation to protect Maryland's environment and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and help secure Maryland's energy future.

"We must do all that we can to preserve our natural resources and secure Maryland's energy future," 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 national leader in protecting the environment. With today's bills, we are creating a sustainable energy policy, securing relief for thousands of Maryland ratepayers through a global settlement with Constellation energy, protecting our environment and helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay for future generations."

"Maryland ratepayers will see over one billion in liability relief as a result of the hard work during the 2008 legislative session," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "The legislation that we are signing today is good for the environment, good for the economy and good for the consumer: protecting the Chesapeake Bay, promoting green technology and reducing energy consumption."

Governor O'Malley today signed into law legislation that updates and strengthens 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 Critical Areas law will 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." Sixty-four local jurisdictions including 16 counties and 48 municipalities comprise land within the critical area.

“Governor O’Malley continues to showcase the leadership that will save our Bay and make our growth sustainable for future generations,” said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. “The legislation being signed today will serve as a national example of what states can do to improve the health and sustainability of our environment.”

Among the bills signed today was legislation that secures a nearly \$2 billion global settlement with Constellation Energy Group for Maryland ratepayers and families and 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. 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.

“Today is a big win for the Governor. He delivered on his promise to the BGE ratepayers and he has laid the groundwork for years of future savings for all citizens through energy efficiency. No one state Governor can stop global energy prices from going up,” said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. “But Governor O’Malley has done more than any of us thought was possible. I was very pleased that he accomplished all of this while also making great strides in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay.”

In addition, Governor O’Malley signed into law legislation that helps secure our energy future including bills that:

- Establish the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and the Maryland Strategic Investment Program to promote affordable, reliable, and clean energy;
- Invest in sustainable energy by increasing the percentage of requirements of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 20% in 2022 and beyond;
- Encourages Marylanders to invest in clean energy systems for their homes by increasing specified grant limits under the Solar Energy and Geothermal Heat Pump grant programs, and creating tax incentives for solar energy geothermal equipment, etc.;
- Establishes green building standards for new and renovated State buildings and new school buildings; and
- Establishes the State goal of achieving a 15% reduction in per capita electricity consumption and peak demand by the end of 2015 through the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency initiative.

Last week, Governor O’Malley announced that public lands managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will not be considered as sites for commercial wind power generation and that public land will continue to be managed for the essential environmental, recreational and economic values they provide for all of Maryland’s families and future generations. Governor O’Malley also joined Virginia Governor Kaine to announce their commitment to work together to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay’s beleaguered blue crab population by directing our regulatory agencies to take immediate steps to reduce the 2008 female harvest of blue crabs by 34 percent, and to develop long-term management strategies to ensure that the blue crab and the economy it supports continue to be an important part of our culture for generations to come.

Last year, Governor O’Malley and the General Assembly took significant steps to protect the Bay and Maryland’s environment by passing legislation related to clean cars, enhanced stormwater management, and oyster restoration. Governor O’Malley today signed into law today legislation that continue their commitment to protect and clean up the Chesapeake Bay and protect Maryland’s environment, including bills

that:

- Secure \$25 million for the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay; and
- Make Transit Oriented Development a priority for the State to reduce sprawl and over-development.

In his first 14 months in office, Governor O'Malley has made great strides in protecting our natural environment, protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay and securing our energy future, including:

- Fully-funded Program Open Space two years in a row to prevent sprawl and preserve Maryland open space
- Restored Maryland's leadership by restoring the Office of Smart Growth to deal with overdevelopment, sprawl and traffic
- Passed the Stormwater Management Act and increased funding for nutrient removal programs, septic system upgrades and sewer rehabilitation projects
- Passed the Oyster Restoration Act to restore oyster population of the Bay.
- Passed the Clean Cars law to reduce auto emissions and tackle global warming
- Invested a record \$17.4 million in cover crop programs for Maryland farmers; and provided \$3.25 million to keep farming profitable in Maryland (MARBIDCO)
- Launched the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, setting the most ambitious goal in the nation to decrease per capita electricity consumption 15% by 2015, which when fully implemented will save Marylanders \$5.7 billion (an average of \$190 per household annually) and avoid at least three new power plants
- Proposed Strategic Energy Investment Fund to allow Maryland to take control of its energy future by investing in energy efficiency technology and clean renewable power
- Promoted diversification of Maryland's electricity sources and "green buildings" to establish a more secure, sustainable energy future
- Created the Climate Change Commission to develop an action plan to address climate change in Maryland and rising sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay,
- Led efforts to implement Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative with 10 states to control carbon dioxide emissions in United States and supported the Global Warming Solutions Act.

[[View list of bills signed](#)]

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Governor Joins Johns Hopkins Celebration Honoring William P. Carey

Carey Business School Dedicated, First Dean Installed

BALTIMORE, MD (April 24, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined a crowd of Johns Hopkins University faculty and donors tonight to celebrate the dedication of the Carey Business School and to honor the man whose \$50 million gift helped build the new school that bears his family's name. During the event, Governor O'Malley praised Johns Hopkins faculty and leadership for their social and academic vision and reiterated his mission to grow Maryland's economy by expanding education, improving the State's workforce and creating jobs. The event was a prelude to Friday's installation of the School's first Dean, Dr. Yash Gupta.

"I am very honored to help dedicate Maryland's newest world-class educational institution, where a unique and rigorous educational experience will help prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs and corporate visionaries," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "I salute William Carey for his vision and for his significant gift to the Hopkins community and the State of Maryland."

The Carey Business School brings the intellectual rigor and commitment to excellence that is a hallmark of The Johns Hopkins University to the field of business education, and true to the traditions of the University in which it resides, its approach will be original and transformative. The School will bring a uniquely humanistic, integrated perspective to business education and research. By uniting pivotal social issues — including health, education, and environmental sustainability — with business education, the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School will strive to improve lives on a global scale.

"More than a century ago, Johns Hopkins University forever broke the mold in American medical and graduate education, establishing revolutionary new approaches that remain central even today to the preparation of physicians and scholars," said William R. Brody, president of the university. "Bill Carey's generosity makes it possible for Johns Hopkins to break the mold again, this time in the education of our nation's leaders in finance, industry and entrepreneurship."

In the great tradition of The Johns Hopkins University, The Carey Business School will produce leaders grounded in ethical principles and committed to building strong communities. It will do so with a sense of optimism, a belief that innovation begins with critical thinking and creativity, and an unflinching desire to make a difference in the world.

ABOUT THE CAREY BUSINESS SCHOOL

- The Carey Business School was launched Jan. 1, 2007 on the strength of a \$50 million gift from trustee emeritus William Polk Carey through his W. P. Carey Foundation.
- Yash P. Gupta, an innovative educator who has led three prominent business schools, most recently serving as the dean of the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business from 2004 to 2006 is the inaugural dean for The Carey Business School.
- The Carey Business School is being built on a tradition of business education at the university that dates to 1916. Johns Hopkins began offering the MBA degree in 1999.
- Prior to 2007 the school was connected to the School of Education and was known as the School for Professional Studies in Business and Education (SPSBE), and from 1985 to 1999 the school was known as the School of Continuing Studies. Prior to 1985 the school was also known as The Evening College and Summer Session (from 1965-1985) as well as McCoy College (1946-1965). Each change signifies the growth of the programs and changes to the curriculum and degrees/certificates offered.
- The Carey Business School has four centers: Baltimore Downtown Center, Columbia Center, Montgomery County Center and the Washington, DC Center.

ABOUT WILLIAM P. CAREY

- William Polk Carey is the Chairman and Founder of W. P. Carey & Co. LLC (NYSE:WPC), a leading real estate investment banking firm headquartered in New York City.
- Mr. Carey began his career in international corporate finance in 1959 and brought the first foreign direct investment into Australia in 1960. He moved into the net leasing of corporate real estate in 1964 as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Hubbard, Westervelt & Mottelay (now Merrill Lynch Hubbard). Before starting W. P. Carey & Co. in 1973, he served as Head of Real Estate and Equipment Financing at Loeb, Rhoades & Co. (now part of Lehman Brothers) and Vice Chairman and Director of Corporate Finance of duPont Glore Forgan Inc.
- W. P. Carey & Co. LLC has evolved into the world's largest publicly traded limited liability company and currently owns and/or manages more than 700 commercial and industrial properties in 13 countries, representing more than 93 million square feet, valued at approximately \$8 billion.
- Mr. Carey's \$50 million donation, paired with \$50 million to be raised by the university, is the largest gift ever in support of business education at Johns Hopkins.
- The new school is named for his great great great grandfather, James Carey of Loudon, a prominent Baltimore businessman of the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Mr. Carey is also active with other educational and philanthropic institutions throughout the world. Mr. Carey's grandmother Anne Galbraith Carey with assistance from Dr. Daniel Coit Gilman (Hopkins first President) founded the Gilman School on the Hopkins Homewood campus in 1897.

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Governor O'Malley Expands Maryland Conservation Corps

New Civic Justice Corps Offers Meaningful Summer Conservation Work to At-risk Youth

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

CATONSVILLE, MD (April 25, 2008) – One day after signing legislation that protects Maryland's environment, the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and helps secure Maryland's energy future, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the expansion of the Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) – the state's award winning AmeriCorps program – to include a summer job program for underserved and court-involved youth.

“Our new Civic Justice Corps will create paid summer jobs and meaningful outdoor experiences for at-risk youth, while contributing to the preservation and restoration of our state parks,” said Governor O'Malley. “These young people will not only learn the value and benefits of service and find a connection with nature; they will also develop job skills to prepare them for our increasingly green economy.”

Joined by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Department of Natural Resources Secretary John Griffin and Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Donald DeVore, Governor O'Malley made the announcement at Patapsco Valley State Park, where he participated in stream monitoring activities with 35 Franklin Square Elementary School students from Baltimore City. The Governor joined the students on the second-day of a field trip that included an overnight camp-out, hiking, bird watching, and hands-on service learning activities. After surveying stream health of the Sawmill Branch, the students planned to survey an urban stream, to compare and contrast with Sawmill Branch and identify ways they can help improve the quality of streams within their own backyard.

“Students of all ages all across Maryland have accepted the challenge to protect our environment against global warming and over-consumption,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “We would be wise to follow the examples of our children to ensure that the Bay, the wetlands and the open space we enjoy still remain for future generations to come.”

The new Civic Justice Corps program, which will be managed by the Maryland Park Service, kicks off this summer with 200 at-risk youth from Baltimore City. Corps members are being recruited with the help of several Maryland Department of Natural Resources partners, including the Maryland Department of Juvenile

Services and the Parks and People Foundation. The Maryland Park Service hopes to expand the Corps to other parts of the state and increase capacity in future summers.

“Replicating this National Model in partnership with DNR and DJS offers a great opportunity for at risk youth,” said Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Donald DeVore. “This proven model reduces recidivism and provides participating youth with a unique and meaningful experience in our State Parks. These youth get the opportunity to earn money, learn more about our environment and assist in the beautification of Maryland.”

MCC AmeriCorps members and state park staff will lead projects and provide mentoring for the 24 CJC crews of 8 youth each at Patapsco Valley State Park and Gunpowder Falls State Park. Their projects will include resource conservation, trail maintenance, forest buffers planting, with training focused on team building and job skills. CJC crewmembers will also learn about the environment by participating in hands-on outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, camping and art work.

“Maryland’s children are losing their connection with our natural world, an alienation that threatens the future of our natural resources and the quality of life for future citizens,” said Department of Natural Resources Secretary John Griffin. “Spending time outdoors is the best way to develop a connection to nature, and the foundation on which to build an environmental stewardship ethic.”

Building on the federal Civilian Conservation Corps established 75 years ago, and the modern AmeriCorps, the Maryland Conservation Corps and the new Civic Justice Corps will engage young adults in extensive natural resource management and park conservation projects. Managed by the Maryland Park Service since 1984, MCC provides members with opportunities for skill development and personal growth through a supportive, team-based environment, emphasizing the satisfaction of completing projects that benefit Maryland's natural resources.

Earlier this week, Governor O’Malley signed an Executive Order establishing the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, a coalition of state, local, private and non-profit partners charged with promoting the well-being of youth by accelerating environmental learning and expanding opportunities for outdoor learning and enjoyment.

Over the course of this month, Governor O’Malley participated in a number of environmental events in celebration of Earth Week, including a groundbreaking at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, a restoration project that will transform one of Baltimore Harbor’s most contaminated sites into an area that will benefit wildlife, local residents, and the port industry, and testifying in support of the federal No Child Left Inside Act at the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education’s field hearing.

Governor O’Malley also announced that public lands managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will not be considered as sites for commercial wind power generation and that public land will continue to be managed for the essential environmental, recreational and economic values they provide for all of Maryland’s families and future generations. In addition, Governor O’Malley joined Virginia Governor Kaine to announce their commitment to work together to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay’s beleaguered blue crab population by directing our regulatory agencies to take immediate steps to reduce the 2008 female harvest of blue crabs by 34 percent, and to develop long-term management strategies to ensure that the blue crab and the economy it supports continue to be an important part of our culture for generations to come.

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Governor O'Malley Names Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Chief Legal Counsel

BALTIMORE, MD (April 28, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Israel "Izzy" C. Patoka as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Governor's Office and the appointment of Elizabeth Harris as Chief Legal Counsel.

"I am proud to appoint Mr. Patoka as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for our One Maryland," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Izzy is a trusted advisor who has played an invaluable role in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, helping communities throughout our State. Izzy's experience, planning expertise, and good nature will help us continue to improve the quality of life for families throughout Maryland."

"I am looking forward to working on behalf of the O'Malley-Brown Administration with each of Maryland's 157 incorporated cities and towns, the 23 counties and the leadership organizations that work with these jurisdictions," said Izzy Patoka. "I am confident that we can continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the various governmental entities and communities."

Mr. Patoka currently serves as Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. In that capacity, he coordinates community and volunteer activities statewide and advises the Governor on policies to enhance and improve community programs. He also oversees the work of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Volunteer Maryland and community affairs services within the Executive Branch of Maryland government. Mr. Patoka also serves as liaison to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In addition, Mr. Patoka coordinates outreach to ethnic communities across Maryland. He serves as a representative on the state's Emergency Operations Center and is a member of the Governor's Joint Executive Council for Emergency Preparedness.

Prior to his role as Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, Mr. Patoka served as Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for the city of Baltimore. During his tenure as Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, the Office was nationally recognized as the 2005 recipient of the National Association of Counties' (NACO) Multicultural Diversity Award for extraordinary outreach to ethnic communities. This prestigious award is cosponsored by the Women Officials in NACo (WON), the National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO), and the National Association of Hispanic County Officials (NAHCO).

Mr. Patoka worked as Deputy Director for the Baltimore County Department of Planning, and Division

Manager of Capital Improvement Programming with the Baltimore City Department of Planning as the Division Manager of Capital Improvement Programming. He is nationally certified as a planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Patoka is a graduate of Towson University where he received both his Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Arts degree in Geography & Environmental Planning. Mr. Patoka serves on numerous boards and committees. He also serves as a Faculty Advisor to Morgan State University, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Graduate City and Regional Planning Program. He was a member of Governor O'Malley's Transition Team. Mr. Patoka is Past President of the Dickeyville Community Association and past Treasurer for the Pen Lucy Community Association. In 2002, he was presented the distinction of Fellow with the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance by the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service, the Local Government Insurance Trust, the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League.

Governor O'Malley also announced the appointment of Elizabeth F. Harris to Chief Legal Counsel for the Office of the Governor. Ms. Harris has served as Acting Chief Legal Counsel since September 2007, and served as Deputy Legal Counsel since January 2007. In her current role, Ms. Harris advises the Governor and Governor's Office staff on all legal matters. Ms. Harris serves as liaison to the judiciary and to the Office of the Attorney General.

"I am proud to name Elizabeth Harris as Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor's Office," said Governor O'Malley. "Elizabeth has played a vital role in advising me and Governor's office staff, and I look forward to her continued counsel on important matters affecting the people of our State."

Prior to becoming Deputy Legal Counsel, Harris was Assistant Solicitor and Chief Solicitor for Baltimore City. From 1999 to 2004, Harris was a civil litigator at Hogan & Hartson where she practiced civil litigation in a broad spectrum of subject areas, including administrative law, intellectual property, consumer protection, antitrust law, labor and employment, government investigations, and corporate law. Prior to that, Harris served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Irma S. Raker on the Court of Appeals of Maryland from 1998 to 1999.

Harris received her Bachelor's degree in 1995 from the University of Richmond, and received her Juris Doctorate in 1998 from the University of Maryland School of Law. While in law school, she earned several awards and honors including, the Sam Allen Memorial Prize for leadership and scholarship, the John S. Strahorn, Jr. Memorial Prize for Evidence, the Judge Simon E. Sobeloff Prize for Constitutional Law and the Corpus Juris Secundum Awards for Criminal Law and Torts. Harris also graduated Order of the Coif. She was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1998.

Harris is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association. She was also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law where she taught Legal Theory and Practice, Torts II in the Spring of 2000.

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