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Governor Announces Plans for a More Sustainable Transportation Fuel System

Construction set for four State E-85 facilities across Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 5, 2008) – Just weeks after announcing plans to transition 500 MTA buses to hybrid, and days following the award of the highest grade ever for environmental initiatives from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Governor O'Malley today was joined by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and administration officials to present roadmap for a more sustainable transportation fuel system in Maryland, beginning with the construction of four new E-85 fuel pumps throughout Maryland. To promote Maryland's energy independence, Governor O'Malley outlined a plan that will combine consumer education, new technologies, and the development of an infrastructure such as the new facilities announced today.

"As the State purchases new vehicles for its fleet, more and more of our cars, trucks and vans will run on alternative fuels," said Governor O'Malley. "With these new E-85 facilities, we'll continue to make Maryland's transportation fleet less dependant on fossil fuels, strengthening the energy future of our State for generations to come. These upfront investments in our alternative fuel infrastructure position Maryland to take advantage of the rapid advances in the next generation of non-food-based ethanol while reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

E-85 is a blend of fuel that contains 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. Ethanol is a renewable fuel made primarily by distilling grains such as corn, wheat and barley. E-85 also burns cleaner than petroleum gasoline, and is thus better for the environment. Emerging forms of ethanol fuel is made from non-food based crops, like switch grass. These new products promise to be even more affordable while still reducing harmful nitrogen emissions to the Bay by 80-90%. Because it can be produced domestically, E-85 decreases dependence on foreign sources of energy. The U.S. currently imports approximately two-thirds of the petroleum it uses.

"Because of Gov. O'Malley's bold leadership, Maryland continues to lead by example. Our commitment to strengthening our sustainable future for our children is evident in the investments we make," Lt. Governor Brown said. "Maryland will stand up for the environment and future generations by investing in sound, renewable energy policies like the construction of facilities like these."

"Reducing the State's dependence on foreign sources of oil has never been a more pressing issue, and greater use of E-85 and other renewable fuels can help us do that," said Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) Secretary Alvin C. Collins. "With 1,200 flex-fuel vehicles already in the State's fleet, we are striving to reduce reliance on fossil fuel and its harmful impacts on the environment."

"With the proper state leadership, alternative vehicles such as E-85 cars and plug-in electric hybrids can become common on Maryland's roads during the next ten years," said Malcolm D. Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). "By reducing our reliance on foreign oil, Maryland can advance our economic security, our national security, and our environmental security at the same time."

Governor O'Malley outlined three distinct transportation strategies through which Maryland will become more energy independent:

Expansion of Biofuels

Governor O'Malley announced today a mandate for the Department of General Services to use a 5% blend of biodiesel in the State vehicle fleet wherever possible. It's estimated that a 5% biodiesel blend, statewide, would replace 180 million gallons of diesel fuel, displace 1.4 metric tons of greenhouse gases, and save drivers \$20 at the pump – just 5%. The Governor also referenced a study nearly complete on non-food based Maryland crops that are particularly well suited to be converted into ethanol.

Future E-85 facilities announced today are tentatively planned for Easton, Hagerstown, La Plata, and Salisbury. Used by the State transportation fleet, the E-85 pumps will be installed at Maryland State Police barracks or State Highway Administration (SHA) facilities.

DGS oversees the Statewide Automated Fuel Dispensing and Management System with 97 refueling stations located in Baltimore City and every Maryland County. Since its June 1991 inception, State fleet drivers have pumped 152 million gallons of fuel. The program has saved the State a total of \$8.2 million. The Maryland Energy Administration serves as the Governor's policy arm for energy and is one of the primary sponsors of the E-85 stations throughout Maryland.

The State currently owns 1,200 flex fuel vehicles and is adding about 200 per year. The range of a vehicle operating on E-85 is more than 350 miles on an 18 gallon tank of fuel. The incremental cost of the purchase of an E-85 vehicle is either very low or non-existent compared to a gasoline counterpart.

Transition to electric vehicles

Governor O'Malley announced today a request to the MEA and other agencies to identify specific steps that will ensure this accelerated transition to alternative fueling methods throughout Maryland.

Electric vehicles not only have zero tailpipe emissions, but they cost the equivalent of 75 cents per gallon. Currently, 80% of the U.S. travels less than 50 miles a day, half of that travel less than 25 miles a day, offering a unique opportunity for an electric vehicle demand.

Last year, Governor O'Malley signed the Clean Cars legislation into law, reducing auto emissions in Maryland and establishing strict pollution standards for all automobiles beginning in model year 2011.

Public Awareness Campaign

In addition to the "Save the Bay, Ride MTA" campaign, and the Commuter Choice Maryland program, which is helping Marylanders make their daily commutes less expensive, Governor O'Malley announced today the launch of an MEA awareness campaign to provide families with money saving vehicle tips.

With just a few short term changes, studies suggest that Maryland could replace 300 million gallons of fuel, remove 3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, and save consumers \$1.4 billion.

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Statement by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley on Fatal Bay Bridge Accident

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 11, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement today regarding the fatal accident on the Bay Bridge:

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of those involved in the accident that took place on the Bay Bridge early Sunday morning.

The unique nature of this incident and its aftermath have posed challenges for us all, but I want to commend the response of our State and local agencies and first responders for their quick and decisive action when they arrived on the scene. I also want to recognize the tremendous effort of the bridge inspection, engineering and maintenance crews that have worked diligently the past two days to make the necessary repairs and ensure the bridge is safe for travel.

Every resource has been utilized to restore normal operations at the Bay Bridge.

It goes without saying that the patience and understanding of the thousands of motorists who have had to deal with the traffic at the bridge since the incident is greatly appreciated.”

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Governor Martin O'Malley, Bay Cabinet Tour Chincoteague Bay

Tour Highlights Local Economic & Environmental Benefits of Shellfish Aquaculture in Coastal Bays

OCEAN CITY, MD (August 13, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today, joined by Bay Cabinet members and Worcester County official, toured Chincoteague Bay, visiting a local oyster aquaculture business to explore and discuss the potential economic and environmental benefits of expanding Maryland's aquaculture industry.

"We have yet to take full advantage of the renewed interest in shellfish aquaculture that offers a great economic and environmental restoration opportunity for our coastal bays," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "No time is better than the present to develop new, and expand established local businesses that can utilize renewable natural resources to create sustainable economic and cultural benefits."

The tour began at the award-winning Great Eastern Chincoteague Shellfish Co., the only off-bottom, float shellfish aquaculture operation in Maryland's coastal bays. The company primarily sells native oysters as "Snow Hill Oysters" to raw bars across the country, local restaurants and local farmers markets. The discussion with the company's owners Luke Breza and David Chamberlain provided an opportunity to observe the businesses' daily operations and importance to the local economy.

"We appreciate Governor O'Malley's visit to our oyster farm to learn how local shellfish aquaculture is helping to resupport the legendary Chincoteague Bay Oyster and improve water quality in our coastal bays. It's great to see the state supporting one of the true potential growth spots in our rural economy," said Luke Breza.

Maryland's existing oyster aquaculture industry employs more than 30 people and generates up to \$1 million for the state's economy. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is working to implement aquaculture enterprise zones, which will help streamline the permit process in the Chesapeake and coastal bays, provide incentives to catalyze private investment in leasing operations and encourage commercial fishery experts to transition to aquaculture.

"Maryland has an outstanding reputation for high quality seafood. Oysters are critical to our economy, our environment and our State's identity," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson.

Recognizing aquaculture's great potential to provide ecological benefits, while also seeking to reduce user conflicts, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently formed a Coastal Bays Aquaculture Development Workgroup, which is expected to recommend strategies to address the issues and opportunities associated with aquaculture in our Coastal Bays later this year.

"Aquaculture's potential to increasing the number of oysters and clams living in the coastal bays could make a significant difference in the bays' health," added Secretary John R. Griffin. "Aquaculture also provides a unique opportunity to

diversify business opportunities for our watermen and rural, resource-based seafood industries.”

In the 2007 legislative session, Governor O’Malley, together with the General Assembly, passed the Oyster Restoration Act to protect and restore the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay. To protect the Chesapeake Bay, its precious resources, and the environment, Governor O’Malley in his first two years in office also:

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

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Governor O'Malley, Mayor Meehan Meet with Local First Responders

Tours Public Safety House and Mobile Command Center; Urges Maryland Families to Have Emergency Plan in Case of Disaster

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Ocean City Mayor Richard W. “Rick” Meehan, Maryland Emergency Management Agency Director Richard Muth, FEMA Regional III Federal Preparedness Coordinator Patrick Twiss, and other local, state and federal officials, today met with local first responders to tour the Ocean City Public Safety house, and to promote emergency preparedness to Maryland citizens, during a day long preparedness expo.

“We were all tremendously shaken by the tragic events on the Bay Bridge this weekend, and our hearts and our prayers today are with the victims and their families,” said Governor O'Malley. “We are reminded of the important work of our first responders who every day work to ensure the safety of our citizens. It is important to not only ensure our first responders have the resources they need to protect the public, but to educate the public on how they can prepare themselves for an emergency. I encourage all Marylanders to have a plan in case of an emergency.”

During his visit, Governor O'Malley toured the Ocean City Fire Safety House, a public education tool with hands-on learning that teaches children and their families fire safety, fire prevention, and the steps to follow in case of a fire emergency. The fire safety house is also equipped with a WeatherSmart system that educates children and families about preparedness for weather related emergencies. Adults and children can participate in severe weather simulation and learn to recognize weather warnings. Governor O'Malley also toured Ocean City's Mobile Command Center.

Last month, to ensure that the State was prepared to handle emergency situations, Governor O'Malley announced a new strategy for improving interoperable communications, so that federal, State, and local first responders could communicate with each other during emergency situations. Governor O'Malley has also increased local aid for public safety by \$19 million – investments that help ensure our first responders are armed with the resources they need for swift, coordinated, and effective response.

“Preparedness is the key to responding to any incident. Public safety remains the Town of Ocean City's top priority,” said Ocean City Mayor Meehan. “We appreciate the support and partnership of the State of Maryland and the Federal Government to aid us in ensuring the safety of our citizens and visitors.”

“The partnership that the Maryland Emergency Management Agency has with emergency managers in this region can give visitors and residents alike the confidence that they will be well served in a disaster,” said Director Muth. “We work with local emergency managers around the state on a daily basis to make sure we can quickly respond to assist our residents when needed.”

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Governor O'Malley Appoints The Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera to Court of Appeals of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 7, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of the Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera to represent the Seventh Appellate Judicial Circuit (Montgomery County) on the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the State's highest court. Judge Barbera will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Irma S. Raker. Since 2002, Judge Barbera has served as an Associate Judge on the Court of Special Appeals, the State's intermediate appellate court.

"I am proud to appoint Judge Barbera to the Court of Appeals," said Governor O'Malley. "Throughout her career – first as an attorney for the State, and later as an appellate judge – she has shown impeccable judgment, integrity, intelligence, and compassion. Her breadth of experience and strength of character will benefit the Court of Appeals and the citizens of Maryland."

Judge Barbera has been a public servant and a leader throughout her career. In the early 1980s, she taught elementary school for the Baltimore City Public School System while attending the University of Maryland School of Law at night. From 1985 to 1989, she worked for the Criminal Appeals Division of the Office of the Attorney General, where she represented the State of Maryland in at least 250 criminal appeals. From 1998 to 2002, she served as legal counsel to Governor Parris N. Glendening.

During Judge Barbera's tenure at the Court of Special Appeals, she authored dozens of published opinions for the Court. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals selected Judge Barbera to serve on the Judicial Ethics Committee and to chair the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference. Judge Barbera also has served on numerous committees of the Maryland State Bar Association, including the special committee on anti-discrimination matters and the standing committee to draft pattern jury instructions in criminal cases.

In addition to her work on the bench, Judge Barbera has taught courses at the American University Washington College of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law. In 1998, the University of Baltimore School of Law gave her an award for Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member.

Judge Barbera has been recognized for her consistent leadership and public service. The *Daily Record* gave her the Maryland Leadership in Law Award in 2007, and recognized her as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2008. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association.

Judge Barbera received a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1984. She received a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education from Towson University in 1975.

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Governor O'Malley Visits Site of New James M. Bennett High School

Highlights Sustainable Design Features; Tours New School Site with County Executive Pollitt and Salisbury Mayor Tilghman

SALISBURY, MD (August 15, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt, and Salisbury Mayor Barrie Tilghman, today visited the construction site of the new James M. Bennett High School in Salisbury. The school is currently undergoing an \$88 million dollar renovation and is being built with sustainable design features including Energy Star roofing, approximately 600 wells for a geothermal heating and cooling system, and ultra-low flow plumbing systems.

“Protecting our investments in public education and school construction is a critical to providing Maryland’s students with the best education and the best equipment,” said Governor O'Malley. “The new construction of James M. Bennett High School will help address the growing student population, while also minimally impacting the environment with sustainable design features.”

In the last two years, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown have made a record \$5.3 billion investment in public education and nearly \$740 million in school construction. Wicomico County has received \$21.1 million for school construction, \$20.8 million of which went to James M. Bennett High School.

“I am delighted that Governor O'Malley took time to visit the site of our newest and most ambitious school construction project,” said Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt. “He has made an unprecedented commitment of State resources on behalf of public education in Wicomico County. Our community will be stronger for his efforts.”

“I am so pleased that Governor O'Malley has scheduled time to visit James M. Bennett High School to tour the site of the renovated school,” said Mayor Barrie P. Tilghman. “This is County Executive Pollitt’s and my alma mater, and we are both looking forward to sharing the plans for the new chapter in the life of this great Wicomico County School with the Governor.”

Established in 1962, James M. Bennett High School is one of four high schools serving the needs of students in Wicomico County and one of three located in the Salisbury area. It is a comprehensive public senior high school with an enrollment of 1400 in grades nine through twelve. The current high school has 11 portable classrooms and is almost 300 students over capacity. It has not been updated since 1976. The replacement project will provide a new state of the art high school facility to accommodate a growing student population and address the aged infrastructure. Construction began June 2008 and is scheduled to be completed September 2011.

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Governor O'Malley Delivers Keynote Address to Maryland Association of Counties

Outlines Policy to Secure Maryland's Energy Future

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OCEAN CITY, MD (August 16, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today delivered the **keynote address** at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Summer Conference in Ocean City. Speaking to hundreds of local elected officials and policymakers, Governor O'Malley outlined plans to secure Maryland's energy future through state and local partnerships, investment in renewable energy, and technology to reduce consumption.

Governor O'Malley made planning for Maryland's energy future a focal point of the first year of his administration, immediately restoring professional, competent, and independent regulators to the Public Service Commission that repeatedly failed to stand up for the public's interest.

“During the first two years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has been taking every shot we can on behalf of Maryland consumers and businesses,” said Governor O'Malley. “Some of these battles we have lost and some of these battles we have won, but every day we fight for the public interest of the people of Maryland. And that is what we are going to continue to do – sparing no expense, retaining any expert, hiring whatever legal resources the public's case requires, and recruiting our neighbors in other States whenever possible to stand up for the public interest in our fight for a more affordable and secure energy future.”

“In the 21st century's global economy, we are increasingly finding ourselves competing with rising economies like China and India for global commodities like oil, natural gas, and coal. The hard reality is that 60% of our electricity in Maryland is generated by the burning of coal. In China alone, they are on pace to build one new coal-fired plant each week. The price of coal – whether its shoveled into a Maryland power plant or leaving the port of Baltimore in a ship bound for Asia – has risen by over 50% compared to this same time last year. Just as global market forces brought oil to \$140 per barrel and gasoline to \$4 per gallon, worldwide demand for coal is driving up all of our electric bills at home and all over the world.”

“We believe that Maryland can be the national leader in renewable energy and we will move forward toward making our State the first in the nation to use its market power to jumpstart large scale, commercial renewable energy projects,” stated Governor O'Malley.

During his speech, Governor O'Malley outlined the challenges Maryland faces and a number of proposals to move Maryland toward a more secure, stable, and sustainable energy future, including:

Partnering with metropolitan, county, municipal governments using the bonding authority of Maryland Environmental Services to develop smaller scale “peaking plants” to bring new plants online as soon as possible. Smaller scale, on-site generation and behind-the-meter generators can be cost-effective and considerably less complicated to build and help to meet generation demand in the coming years.

Offering long-term contracts for clean, renewable power, to accelerate the arrival of more commercial scale projects like Delaware's off-shore wind farm. Maryland must become a national leader in renewable energy and move forward toward making our State the first in the nation to use its market power to jumpstart large scale, commercial renewable energy projects.

Accelerating the deployment of so-called smart meters and smart pricing to consumers in order to reduce consumption and therefore reduce the rate of demand growth. Throughout the day, energy prices fluctuate based on electricity usage. With smart pricing, consumers are charged less for electricity during non-peak times. Smart meters give all of us the power to lower our electric bills by choosing to run the dishwasher or clothes dryer when energy is least expensive. Pilot programs in other states, that smart pricing and smart meters have reduced consumers' bills by 15%.

Maintaining on-site generation that can also come to the aid of our entire State by working as peaking units. Maryland will pursue more partnerships with federal facilities and other large institutions to move from the notion of back-up emergency generators to a new fleet of distributed peaking generators to relieve the growing stress on our power grid and its supply.

Providing assistance to low-income families who are struggling to afford energy prices, during these difficult economic times. The State of Maryland must use the Strategic Energy Investment fund to help increase current investments in energy assistance for lower income families; conservation and conservation technologies. None of our neighbors should have to face a winter without heat or a sweltering summer's day without some relief.

Using the Public Service Commission to direct utilities to either find or build new generation to address any future supply shortfalls that the market is not reasonably expected to deliver in time to keep the lights on in 2011, 2012, and the years that follow.

Governor O'Malley acknowledged that there is no single idea or technology that alone can lead to a more stable and sustainable energy future. "The complexity of our current challenge demands that we pursue a number of different paths which we hope will converge on the horizon of possibilities with other paths being pursued in science, technology, chemistry, and physics – here and around the world," he said.

Governor O'Malley also discussed the drawbacks of re-regulating Maryland's energy companies.

"There are proposals in both houses of the state legislature that would re-regulate our energy industry, but the problem is that no one is willing to raise the \$20 billion in new revenues required to buy the power-plants away from the holding companies and place them back into a regulated market. Nor is there any political stomach for raising \$10 billion in new revenues for the less dramatic approach of placing the State squarely in the business of power generation," said Governor O'Malley. "If we are willing to reach a consensus that re-regulation can mean something other than taking back power plants, there are solid potential options and we've asked the PSC to investigate and offer a report on several of them."

Some of the options include requiring that all future generation be owned by in-state utilities, developing new plants that are financed by utilities, or creating public-private partnerships with the State.

Saturday's keynote speech at the Maryland Association of Counties arrives following 20 months of steady progress toward sustainable, secure energy policies signing the Clean Cars Act and adopting new green building standards for public buildings while investing in green technology for our schools. During the recent legislative session, Governor O'Malley signed the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, one of the most ambitious goals in the nation for lowering energy consumption 15% by 2015. In addition, the O'Malley Brown Administration helped pass legislation that requires 20% of Maryland's energy portfolio to come from renewable sources of energy.

The Maryland Association of Counties is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that includes representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. The annual summer conference is held in Ocean City and attendees from every Maryland jurisdiction have an opportunity to attend workshops, policy presentations, and gather with other elected officials to form partnerships and learn about innovations in governance.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley Congratulating Michael Phelps

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 18, 2008) - Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today congratulating Olympian Michael Phelps:

"I want to congratulate Michael Phelps on winning eight gold medals, and breaking seven world records at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. His historic achievement offered a moment of pride not only for his state, but for an entire nation.

As Maryland watched Michael make history in Beijing, we did so with the pride and anticipation that comes with the spirit of the Olympic Games. Michael brought that spirit back to life and has made this year's games an unforgettable experience for all Marylanders. We all look forward to welcoming Michael home in the coming weeks."

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Governor O'Malley Kicks Off Maryland's Partnership for Children in Nature

Twenty-one Member Panel Appointed to Promote Outdoor Experiences, Environmental Literacy for Maryland's Children

MILLERSVILLE, MD (August 20, 2008) – Joined by Congressman John Sarbanes, Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources John Griffin, State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick, and members of the No Child Left Inside Coalition, Governor Martin O'Malley kicked off Maryland's Partnership for Children in Nature today at a rally with more than 150 students, educators and business leaders. The Governor also announced the membership of the 21-member panel appointed to increase outdoor experiences and environmental literacy for Maryland's children.

"Our mission is to ensure that every child in every community experiences nature directly and develops a personal connection with our environment," said Governor O'Malley. "These outdoor experiences build a sense of stewardship so that our children learn the principles associated with being responsible guardians of Maryland's natural resources."

The Governor established the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature earlier this year. On Earth Day last April, Governor O'Malley testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education in support of the federal No Child Left Inside Act, which promotes environmental education through grants and teacher training projects. Congressman John Sarbanes, the legislation's lead sponsor, also spoke at today's rally.

"The Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature is an excellent complement to the No Child Left Inside federal initiative," said Congressman Sarbanes. "I would like to applaud Governor O'Malley for this initiative to support environmental education in Maryland's schools and am confident that other states will follow his lead."

The kick-off event came just two weeks after the Governor participated in the graduation ceremony of the Maryland Civic Justice Corps, a summer job and environmental education program for Maryland youth, which includes the completion of numerous restoration and improvement projects throughout Maryland State Parks. In addition to youth employment efforts, Maryland in-state college tuition has remained frozen for three consecutive years, aid to community colleges has increased by nine percent compared to four years ago, and a record \$5.3 billion has been invested in K-12 education, demonstrating that the future of Maryland's youth remains a top priority in the O'Malley-Brown administration.

The Partnership for Children in Nature will be co-chaired by State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick and Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin.

"Maryland stretches from the ocean and the Chesapeake Bay in the east, to the mountains in the west, serving as a natural classroom for our 850,000 students. Indeed, our schools already follow a curriculum requiring outdoor experiences at each grade level," said Grasmick. "Rep. Sarbanes and Gov. O'Malley are to be commended for this effort, which has as its goal greater opportunities for outdoor education in Maryland and the rest of the nation. It is exciting to encourage our children to learn more about the environment and all it has to offer, which will enhance the rest of their lives."

Governor O'Malley tasked the partnership with creating an environmental literacy plan for Maryland students, increasing opportunities for structured outdoor learning on state parks and conservation lands, and enhancing school and community natural areas to enable more play and learning outdoors. The partnership will also work on improving environmental education by

connecting existing natural resources camps and other outdoor programs to state learning standards, and increasing minority visitation to public lands.

“Kids need more time playing and learning outdoors in order to develop their own personal connection with nature,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin. “We hope to leverage the ideas and resources of this new partnership to better connect communities with parks via walk-able trails, improve natural outdoor play areas in undeveloped pockets of urban and suburban neighborhoods, and expand schoolyard habitat programs.”

Governor O'Malley commemorated the partnership's kick-off by planting a tree with students learning about the Severn River ecosystem at Anne Arundel County's premier environmental education center. This is an activity the Governor includes in each monthly “Capital for a Day” event throughout the State.

“It is critical that our citizens, especially the younger ones, are aware of the environmental issues facing our state and are equipped with the knowledge and skills to help alleviate those issues. The partnership is a positive step in that direction.” said Dr. Sarah Haines, Director of Towson University's Center for Sciences and Mathematics Education.

Partnership for Children in Nature Appointees

- Co-Chair John R. Griffin, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Co-Chair Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools
- Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Montgomery County Department of Recreation
- Margo Bailey, Mayor, Chestertown
- Will Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Steve Barry, Arlington Echo Environmental Education Center, Anne Arundel County Public School System
- Becky Beecroft, Teacher, Fairview Outdoor School, Washington County
- James Bond, Executive Director, Living Classrooms
- Tracy Bowen, Executive Director, Alice Ferguson Foundation
- Jackie Carrera, Executive Director, Parks and People Foundation
- Sydney Cousin, Superintendent, Howard County Public School System
- Patrick Delaney, Retired Principal, Route 40 School, Allegany County
- Bob Dulli, National Geographic Society
- Lynne Goldman, Johns Hopkins University
- Allen Hance, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Bob Hoyt, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
- Dr. Sarah Haines, Director of Center for Sciences and Mathematics Education, Towson University
- Cernelious Jones, Chair, Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Inc.
- William McDonald, Discovery Communications
- Esther Parker, Former President, Maryland Parent Teacher Organization
- Heather White, Director of Education Advocacy, National Wildlife Federation

For more information about Maryland's Partnership for Children in Nature and interactive children's activities visit http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/education/children_nature/.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Applauds General Motors for Bringing Solar Power to Area Plant

More than 8,700 solar panels to be installed at transmission plant through partnership with MD solar company

WHITE MARSH, MD (August 21, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley applauded General Motors today as the company announced a massive solar power project for its Baltimore County transmission plant. The plant, which produced over 189,000 six-speed transmissions last year for GM vehicles and employs over 300 people, will install a rooftop solar power installation which, when completed, will cover over 300,000 square feet of rooftop and will be one of the largest installations of its kind on the East Coast.

"Maryland is quickly emerging as a national leader in renewable energy, and with projects like this one announced by General Motors, we will move forward toward making our State a model for the rest of the country," noted Governor O'Malley. "Being a responsible corporate citizen means more than generating a healthy bottom line. It means contributing positively to the community, and that community includes the natural beauty and environmental resources we all share. General Motors is to be commended for this bold step towards a sustainable energy future."

For this project, GM has partnered with Sun Edison of Beltsville, Maryland which will provide the thin film solar panels for the project. Sun Edison, a company that employs 150 people in Maryland, was founded in 2003 and is North America's largest solar energy services provider. Sun Edison provides the design, engineering, and installation of the entire solar array, including a 20 year commitment with General Motors for service and maintenance.

The Governor's participation in this announcement comes just weeks after a series of major environmental announcements by the Administration. Last month, Governor O'Malley announced plans to transition 500 MTA buses to hybrid, and just weeks ago Governor O'Malley was awarded the highest grade ever for environmental initiatives from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. The Governor also joined the Lt. Governor earlier this month to announce the expansion of the state's E-85 fuel infrastructure, and a series of steps Maryland's government is taking to transition the State into a cleaner energy future.

Last week before the annual convention of the Maryland Association of Counties, Governor O'Malley, in his [keynote address](#), outlined a comprehensive plan to secure Maryland's energy future. Among the Governor's planned initiatives, he announced continued partnership with metropolitan, county, and municipal governments using the bonding authority of Maryland Environmental Services to develop smaller scale "peaking plants" to bring new plants online as soon as possible. In order to become a national leader in renewable energy, Maryland will offer long-term contracts for clean, renewable power, to accelerate the arrival of more commercial scale projects like Delaware's off-shore wind farm. In addition, Governor O'Malley proposes an acceleration of the deployment of so-called smart meters and smart pricing for consumers to reduce consumption and the provision of assistance to low-income families who are struggling to afford energy prices, during difficult economic times.

Last year, under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland passed the Clean Cars Act and adopted new green building standards for public buildings while investing in green technology for our schools. During the recent legislative session, Governor O'Malley signed the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, one of the most ambitious goals in the nation for lowering energy consumption 15% by 2015. In addition, the Administration helped pass legislation that requires 20% of Maryland's energy portfolio to come from renewable sources of energy by 2022.

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Governor O'Malley Declares Pocomoke City Maryland's 'Capital for a Day'

POCOMOKE CITY, MD (August 21, 2008) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley spent the day in Pocomoke City with members of his Executive Cabinet, declaring that city Maryland's "Capital for a Day." The monthly program launched by Governor O'Malley brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities.

The Governor began the day hearing from local leaders, including Pocomoke City Mayor Mike McDermott and Worcester County President Virgil Shockley, each of whom discussed with the group the challenges and opportunities facing Pocomoke City and surrounding areas.

Throughout the day, Governor O'Malley met with local elected, community, business, and tourism officials during this fourth in a series of "Capital for a Day" declarations across the State. The Governor's activities, as well as those of his Executive Cabinet, focused on the ongoing local, county, and state partnerships necessary to achieve real and steady progress for the people of Worcester County.

"I am proud to officially proclaim Pocomoke City Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley, making his announcement at the Pocomoke City drawbridge on Thursday. "Since the cornerstone of our progress is an ability to work beyond the confines of the State House with local partners throughout our One Maryland, we're proud to bring the State Capital to the people of Maryland where they live and work. Strengthening our local partnerships where they already exist, and establishing those partnerships where they have lapsed, is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like Pocomoke City."

Worcester County has experienced a significant increase in education funding under the O'Malley / Brown Administration. Direct K-12 funding has increased by \$213,000 compared to the same period four years ago, and community college funding has increased more than six percent over the same period. In addition, school construction funding since 2006 for Worcester County, totaling \$13.7 million, exceeds the four-year total of the preceding administration by over \$4 million. This funding includes \$3.7 million to renovate and expand Pocomoke High School, adding 13 new classrooms to the 1958 facility, and \$1.8 million to the Worcester Career and Technology Center.

"This is a great opportunity for Pocomoke City to shine," noted Mayor Mike McDermott. "We are excited for the opportunity to meet face to face with the Governor and the members of the Executive Cabinet to demonstrate that the State of Maryland has deep partnerships with this region. We want to not only recognize the successes of the past, but also look forward to future successes."

"I'm very pleased that Governor O'Malley and his Cabinet members have taken the time to recognize Worcester County, and particularly Pocomoke City, in this way," said Worcester County Commission President Virgil Shockley. "Pocomoke City is known as the friendliest town on the Eastern Shore, with a reputation for good food and good fellowship. As business interests of the community now come to the forefront, we look forward to working with Governor and the Department of Business and Economic Development on improving job opportunities here in Worcester County."

As part of the "Capital for a Day" declaration, Governor O'Malley ceremoniously planted a tree along with the captains of the three Pocomoke City High School 2007-2008 State Championship teams, Soccer, Field Hockey, and Girls' Basketball. Planting a tree is an activity performed at each "Capital for a Day," and is designed to illustrate the State's commitment to a more sustainable future for all Marylanders. Joining the Governor were State Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Delegate James Mathias,

and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Norman Conway.

“On behalf of my colleagues in the General Assembly representing the people of Worcester County, I’m so proud that Governor O’Malley has declared Pocomoke City Maryland’s ‘Capital for a Day’ today,” said Del. Norman Conway. “Today’s series of events illustrates the vital partnerships throughout the city, county, and state that will continue to improve the local economy and build jobs in this region.”

Following the Governor’s announcement, he shared lunch with local elected and tourism officials at the Delmarva Discovery Center, a facility located in downtown Pocomoke City which, when completed, will provide a location where visitors to the area can view the physical attractions and traditions associated with the Pocomoke River. Following lunch, the Governor presented a \$500,000 conditional grant to the museum to assist with a portion of the costs to construct a 4,000 square foot shell building, which will serve as a restaurant for the facility when completed.

Later, Governor O’Malley joined Business and Economic Development Secretary David Edgerley and George Tunis, III, CEO of Hardwire, LLC, to tour the Pocomoke City testing center and corporate offices which will soon be completed. Hardwire, LLC develops composite technologies that add value to a number of industries, including military, security, structural, concrete, automotive, and alternative energy industries. The current expansion will have a significant economic development impact on Worcester County by providing high quality employment to the region.

As the Governor’s final event of the day, he joined Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson at the opening ceremonies of the Great Pocomoke Fair, an event established in 1901, which features a variety of family activities, agricultural exhibits, and unique contests.

“Capital for a Day,” a program launched by Governor O’Malley during his first term, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. Four more such events are planned for the remainder of 2008 in areas including Maryland’s port towns, Cumberland, Gaithersburg, and Ellicott City.

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Governor O'Malley Announces Expansion of Commuter Bus Service to Eastern Shore

Added Trips Provide Express Transit Option to Washington During Bay Bridge Construction

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 28, 2008) – Understanding the challenge Eastern Shore commuters face during construction on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced an expansion of the state-funded commuter bus service operating between Kent Island and Washington, D.C. An additional six weekday round-trips have been added to the schedule. These will be express buses with morning departures from two locations on Kent Island and afternoon return trips from downtown Washington, D.C. The additional service is in response to the necessary closure of one lane of the eastbound span while construction crews strengthen the parapets or barrier walls along the side of the bridge.

“The necessary closing of a lane on the Bay Bridge creates a daily challenge for eastern shore commuters,” said Governor O'Malley. “By adding more express bus service to downtown Washington, transit can become an option for more people. Every driver riding a bus means one less car on the bridge, thus alleviating the potential impact of bridge congestion while the necessary repairs continue.”

Beginning the morning of September 2, two round trips will be added to the MTA #922 line and four round trips will be added to the #950 line. Both lines serve two locations on Kent Island. These include the Kent Narrows Park and Ride under U.S. 50 at Exit 41 and the Stevensville Park and Ride near MD 8 & U.S. 50. Upon reaching Washington, D.C., the #922 and #950 make various stops in different sections of the downtown area.

Departure times for the additional trips are as follows:

	Depart Kent Narrows	Return from Washington
#922 Line	4:30 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
	5:05 a.m.	4:35 p.m.
#950 Line	4:30 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
	5:15 a.m.	3:45 p.m.
	6:20 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
	6:50 a.m.	5:00 p.m.

Commuter Bus Service

This represents an expansion of the Kent Island – Washington, D.C. service already in place. In July of this year, both lines from

Kent Island, combined, carried an average of 240 riders a day. That is a 50% increase over the same period one year ago. Customers can obtain complete commuter bus schedule information by visiting www.mtamaryland.com.

The one-way fare on both the #922 and #950 service is \$5.00. Customers using the Kent Island – Washington, D.C. service ride aboard over-the-road coaches, each carrying 55 passengers in comfortable seating.

The lane closure on the eastbound span will be in place for up to 10 weeks while modifications to the barrier walls are completed. The additional commuter bus service will be in place for six months and cost \$750,000. The Maryland Transportation Authority, owner and operator of the Bay Bridge, will pay for the new service.

“Committing to this new service for six months allows us to provide more transit during this construction period. It also allows the public ample time to discover these additional transit options,” said Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari. “We will evaluate ridership levels at the end of the six month period and determine if the demand is present to continue the expanded service.”

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Medical Strike Team from Maryland Deploying to Louisiana as Hurricane Gustav Aims for Gulf of Mexico

Eleven vehicles, 26 personnel to leave early Saturday morning from Baltimore

REISTERSTOWN, MD (August 29, 2008) – A medical strike team with emergency responders from several Maryland jurisdictions will leave for Louisiana early Saturday morning as Gulf Coast states brace for Hurricane Gustav. The Maryland group will include five advanced life support ambulances and six support vehicles staffed by 26 individuals.

“Because natural disasters are not contained by geographic boundary, neither therefore should our ability to respond to them,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “While we don’t yet know the potential impact of this storm, it is nonetheless our responsibility to answer the call for assistance from our friends along the Gulf Coast, as we did in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and will continue to do.”

Louisiana issued a request for strike teams on Thursday through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a process that allows state-to-state mutual aid in times of disasters. Several other states also have offered assistance to Gulf states.

“Because Hurricane Hanna is a potential threat to the East Coast of the United States later next week, we were careful not to over-commit our resources,” said Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Richard Muth. “But it is important that the states work together whenever a part of the country is threatened with a major storm.”

Units and personnel from Baltimore City and Charles, Howard and Harford counties will be joined by colleagues from LifeStar, a private ambulance service. They are expected to leave around dawn Saturday from the Baltimore City Fire Academy to begin the 20-hour long trip to a staging site in Alexandria, La. A staff member from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) will travel with the convoy.

The response was coordinated jointly by MEMA and MEIMSS in coordination with other state and local agencies. MEMA has been monitoring both Gustav and Hanna during conference calls with officials from various federal agencies, other states and local jurisdiction in Maryland.