



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE Circle
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

ONE MARYLAND: FORWARD TOGETHER

INAUGURAL REMARKS BY GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

ANNAPOLIS, MD
JANUARY 19, 2011

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Thank you all for being here.

To my wife Katie, and our children Grace, Tara, William and Jack. To my mother Barbara O'Malley, and to my father who is here in spirit, and to my brothers and sisters; to Joe and Barbara Curran; to Monsignor Burke, Imam Hendi, Reverend Hill, and Rabbi Weinblatt; to Lt. Governor Anthony Brown; To Senator Mikulski, thank you for your leadership, friendship, and your kind introduction; to Senator Cardin, to Senator Sarbanes, to Congressman Cummings, Congressman Ruppertsberger, Congressman Sarbanes, Congresswoman Edwards, Congressman Bartlett, and Congressman Harris; to Governor Hughes, Governor Glendening, and Governor Mandel; to Judge Bell, to the County Executives, the County Commissioners, and the Mayors of Maryland; to President Miller, Speaker Busch and the men and women of the General Assembly; to Attorney General Gansler, Comptroller Franchot, and Treasurer Kopp; to the members of our National Guard and Armed Forces, and to the many courageous veterans who are joining us today;

A special welcome to Mayor Gray of Washington, D.C. and Governor McDonnell who joins us from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thank you all for your leadership, thank you for your service and thank you for your presence here today.

To the people of Maryland, thank you for trusting me to serve you at this pivotal moment in our history.

Today, we reaffirm that we are One Maryland, united by our belief in the dignity of every individual, and by our belief in our own responsibility to advance the greater good. In our State, there is no such thing as a spare American; we are all in this together. And as One Maryland, we ask God for His blessing, protection, and grace.

Four years ago, few could have foreseen the suffering so many Maryland families would endure as our national economy and global financial markets nearly collapsed. We could not have imagined how many moms and dads would lose their jobs and homes, or how many small businesses would have to close their doors.

In times of adversity, such as these, the people of Maryland do not make excuses, we make progress.

IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY, WE MAKE PROGRESS

Determined to move forward out of this recession, Maryland businesses chose to start expanding and creating jobs again, and are now doing so at nearly twice the national rate.¹

Determined to make our children winners in this new economy, together we chose to improve public education² with record investments.³ Alone among the fifty states, we made college more affordable for more families by holding the line against any increase in college tuition for four years in a row.⁴

Together, we chose to invest in innovation, bio-tech, renewable energy, research and development.⁵

Thanks to courageous fire fighters and police officers, better technology, and stronger partnerships, we saved lives by driving violent crime,⁶ fire deaths,⁷ and traffic deaths down to record lows.⁸

¹ Our state has added over 25,000 private sector jobs through November of last year. The total number of new jobs created is 36,100.

² For the third straight year, Education Week, the nation's leading education publication, found that Maryland's public school system leads the nation. The publication gave Maryland a "B+," recognizing or highlighting Maryland's leadership in the areas of alignment and education funding.

³ The O'Malley-Brown Administration's investment of over \$23 billion in operating and capital funding for Maryland's top-ranked public schools represents the highest investment ever in our State's history.

⁴ In the 2011 version of Kiplinger's "Best Values in Public Colleges," The University of Maryland, College Park was ranked the 5th best value, up from 8th last year. Four other Maryland schools made the list: St. Mary's College of Maryland, Salisbury University, Towson University and University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

⁵ In FY2011, Governor O'Malley increased the Biotechnology Investor Tax Credit to \$8 million and extended the Research and Development Tax Credit. Since it was first funded in FY 2007, the program has issued \$30 million in tax credits, assisting more than 40 Maryland biotechnology companies and leveraging more than \$60 million in private investment.

⁶ In 2009, violent crime across our state was recorded at its lowest rate since tracking began in 1975. Governor O'Malley has set a goal to reduce violent crime in Maryland by 20% by the end of 2012.

⁷ In 2008, the total number of fire deaths was 60, which was a dramatic decrease from 2007 and ties with 2006 as an historic low since fire death statistics were first compiled.

With a performance-measured government that functions and works: we extended healthcare coverage to more families⁹ and family-owned businesses;¹⁰ we improved the health of the waters and rivers of the Chesapeake Bay,¹¹ and with our neighbors in Virginia, guided by science, we restored a blue crab population that was in danger of collapse.¹²

With tough but fiscally responsible choices, we cut \$5.6 billion in state spending and reduced the size of our government.¹³

As we look ahead, we know these next four years will not be easy. Unemployment and foreclosures remain unacceptably high, wages remain stagnant, and our national recovery has only just begun. We have a long way to go.

None of us has all the answers, but you and I rightly sense what is at stake right now.

FORWARD

We are in a period of profound economic change.

It is a change that will affect all of our lives and, more importantly, the lives of our children for the better, or for the worse. In challenging times like these, a different level of leadership, determination, imagination, and creativity is required from each of us.

No generation of Americans ever built monuments to their own comfort.

If Maryland is to succeed in this new global economy – if Maryland's children are going to be winners in this new economy – we must move forward.

Forward by harnessing the full job-creating potential of Maryland's Innovation Economy in life-sciences, bio-tech, aerospace, trade and cyber-security.¹⁴

⁸ In 2009, traffic fatalities were recorded at the lowest levels since tracking began in the 1960's.

⁹ Through a combination of expansion programs, 247,760 more Marylanders have healthcare today than four years ago, including 117,575 children.

¹⁰ In 2007, Governor O'Malley signed the Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act to assist more Marylanders with obtaining affordable health care coverage. To date, 313 small businesses have taken advantage of the program and have been able to provide health coverage to 1,496 of their employees and employees' families.

¹¹ The Chesapeake Bay Health Report Card for 2009 gave the health of the bay its highest mark since 2002.

¹² Maryland's blue crab population is at its highest levels since 1997, showing an increase of 60% between 2008 and 2009.

¹³ Since 2007, 4,200 positions have been eliminated. There are fewer employees in the State's Executive Branch today than there were four years ago.

¹⁴ Last year, *CyberMaryland*, a public/private economic development initiative to position Maryland as the nation's epicenter for cyber security, was recognized with the *2010 Excellence in Community & Economic Development Research Award* from the Council for Community and Economic Research, a national organization that promotes excellence in research.

Forward by maximizing the new job opportunities generated in global trade through our modernized Port¹⁵ and in the next generation of clean-tech and green-tech manufacturing.¹⁶

Forward by further improving public education so all of our children can earn a world-class education¹⁷ and successfully compete to win in the global economy.¹⁸

Forward by making college more affordable for more families, by improving the skills of our workforce,¹⁹ and by building world-class institutions of higher learning, research, and innovation.²⁰

Forward by improving public safety and the security of our homeland.²¹

Forward by restoring our Bay, by advancing a cleaner, greener, renewable energy future, and by taking to scale emerging technologies like offshore wind²² and electric drive cars to create jobs in Maryland.²³

All of these pursuits are important and essential for the future. Each creates new jobs and new opportunities. And progress on one requires progress on all.

THE BETTER FUTURE WE SEEK DAWNS FIRST IN MARYLAND

¹⁵ In 2009, Governor O'Malley announced an agreement that will allow the Maryland Port Administration to lease its 200-acre Seagirt Marine Terminal to Ports America and in return, Ports America has agreed to construct a 50-foot berth for the Port of Baltimore. The partnership is expected to support 5,700 new jobs and will generate \$15.7 million per year in new taxes for Maryland.

¹⁶ The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation received a \$5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to train 2,000 Marylanders for green jobs in the sectors of manufacturing, construction, environmental technology and solar energy.

¹⁷ Over the past four years, Maryland has seen impressive educational gains by African American and Hispanic students. Nearly 10 percent (9.6 percent) of students receiving a grade of 3 or better on Advanced Placement exams were African American. That is the fourth-highest percentage among states in the nation. Maryland is also one of only 16 states in the nation to have successfully closed the equity gap for Latino students.

¹⁸ In August, Maryland became one of eleven states and the District of Columbia to receive one of the U.S. Department of Education's highly competitive Race to the Top grants.

¹⁹ Governor O'Malley has set a goal to increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20% by the end of 2012. It is projected that 39% of job openings in Maryland by 2018 will be "middle skill jobs," jobs that require training or education beyond high school but do not require a four-year degree.

²⁰ Over the past four years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has invested over \$858 million to build state of the art facilities on our state's college campuses, like the new Science and Technology Center at Coppin State University.

²¹ Governor O'Malley has established 12 core goals to build a more prepared Maryland, including building a state-wide, state of the art interoperable radio system that will allow first responders across our state to communicate effectively during emergencies.

²² Maryland's first two commercial wind farms started generating clean energy in December. The two wind projects will together generate 120MW of renewable energy—enough to power 40,000 homes. The projects created more than 200 jobs during their construction.

²³ Last year, Governor O'Malley announced that GM will produce next generation two mode rear wheel drive motors and related electric drive components at GM Powertrain Baltimore in White Marsh. The company will construct a high-volume electric drive manufacturing facility at the Baltimore County Transmission plant, creating approximately 200 jobs and retaining hundreds more already at the plant.

I believe in this decade of ours, the better future we seek dawns first in Maryland.

There is not another state better positioned than we are to transform the global challenges we face into the jobs and opportunities of our own new economy here.²⁴

We are at the threshold of brilliant science, innovative technology and remarkable discoveries that will transform, for the better, the opportunities and the world that we give to our children. From the schools, laboratories, and companies of Maryland are emerging the discoveries, technologies, and jobs that will remake our world.

In this search for answers and solutions, Maryland is not a random scattering of isolated individuals totally on our own.

In fact, there are some challenges so large, that we can only address them together – making this new economy ours; spurring innovation, harnessing its job creating and healing potential; improving public schools, public safety, public works, and the protection of our public health and our natural resources.

We need each other just as much as the next generation needs us. We cannot allow our individual sense of entitlement to tear apart our shared sense of community.

We must move beyond the debilitating idea that our children will not enjoy a better quality of life than we have that we are destined to decline, backslide and fail.

I say our best days are ahead of us – but only if we choose to make it so.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITY THAT ALREADY IS

The fabric of our social and political life is stretched and torn by the politics of division; violence casts a long shadow. But we cannot allow fear to separate us.

We must find the ways to move forward together; find the ways to make it in America. And Maryland, our Maryland, has a responsibility – especially now – to brighten and defend the constellation of progress that calls our country forward.

For Maryland is a vibrant, living system, blessed by a beautiful diversity: different cultures and forests, cities and towns, diverse religions and farmlands, historic universities and rivers, devotion and song.

To heal our painful economic and political wounds, we must connect more of Maryland to herself.

²⁴ According to the 2010 State New Economy Index, Maryland is one of the top three states that are best positioned to transition into the new economy.

It is not as if there is religion here, science there, government and economics over there, corporations in that corner, children over there in a playground, all separated neatly into walled-off spaces.

We are here to make Maryland whole again. We must recognize “the unity that already is,”²⁵ and find ways to work together that strengthen that unity. This is our challenge: not of government alone or society as a whole, but of every individual who values the title of citizen.

And so with love, forgiveness, and humility, let us move forward as One Maryland, that our works – and the sacrifice of the days ahead – shall be worthy of the hope God sees in the eyes of our children.

END

²⁵ Christine M. Bochen, on Thomas Merton's writings: "The challenge before us is twofold: to realize the unity that already is and to find ways to live together that are consistent with that unity."