



**For Immediate Release  
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**MARTIN O'MALLEY DELIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL ADDRESS**  
*Announces Environmental Bill of Rights for Maryland's Families; Outlines Core Principles for Progress; Asks Marylanders to email campaign with their own environmental stories*

This morning, Martin O'Malley outlined his core principles for progress for Maryland's environment and released an Environmental Bill of Rights for Maryland's Families. Standing on a former Brownfield site at Tide Point in Baltimore's Harbor and joined by environmental advocates, O'Malley stated, "In Maryland, we have the ability to move forward to safeguard these rights – in an open and transparent manner – united by our belief in three core principles."

O'Malley outlined three core principles to restore Maryland's leadership in protecting the environment, which include a responsibility to safeguard public health; a responsibility to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay; and a responsibility to regain our leadership in Smart Growth and redevelopment, to prevent sprawl and create greater economic opportunities for all.

In addition to outlining his core principles, O'Malley announced an Environmental Bill of Rights for Maryland's Families. The Bill of Rights includes the right to:

- Breathe clean air;
- Drink clean water;
- Benefit from a cleaner and healthier Chesapeake Bay;
- Make sure every child is safe from the debilitating hazards of lead poisoning; and
- Enjoy the parks, playgrounds and open spaces that we've purchased together for the future.

During his address, O'Malley highlighted Baltimore's progress on environmental issues in **safeguarding public health** by reducing childhood lead poisoning by two-thirds and creating energy efficiency programs through CitiStat and the Office of Energy Conservation to ensure that city buildings (and now BCPSS facilities) are energy efficient.

O'Malley also highlighted the progress Baltimore is making in **protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay** by investing more than \$900 million – more than any other jurisdiction in the state – to update the sewage system, by improving parks and creating new greenways – like the Gwynns Falls Trail and the Jones Falls Trail – to protect our watersheds, and connect to neighborhoods. Baltimore implemented an Adopt-A-Waterway partnership with private companies

to clean up storm water runoff – and clean the Harbor and the Bay.

To restore Maryland's leadership in **Smart Growth**, O'Malley highlighted Baltimore's success in redeveloping Brownfield sites. Through projects like Tide Point, Montgomery Park, the Can Company, Canton Crossing and Camden Crossing – 63 projects in all – Baltimore is proving that it is possible to protect the environment and public health while also creating economic opportunity.

“While the people of Baltimore are moving forward, sadly, our state seems to be taking another course. Our federal government under President Bush has dramatically decreased enforcement of public health laws – with civil actions against polluters down by 75% – Maryland must protect Maryland, and our state ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in air quality,” said O'Malley.

Years of efforts to improve the Bay's health have not yet yielded substantive results, and according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, scientists predict this summer could be one of the worst on record for water quality.

The Ehrlich Administration has dramatically cut purchases of sensitive land under Program Open Space and our State government tried to sell off parks and forests for short-term gain. In addition, under the Ehrlich Administration, public transportation is no longer a priority for our state.

O'Malley stated, “Just as other states were starting to copy Maryland's leadership in reducing sprawl, the Ehrlich Administration changed direction. We've dramatically cut purchases of sensitive land under Program Open Space. Public transportation is no longer a priority. And our State government even tried to sell off parks and forests for short-term gain.”

O'Malley added, “Protecting our environment should not be a partisan issue. We've had a long tradition of bipartisan environmental leadership in this state. For as we strengthen our environment, as we clean up the Chesapeake Bay, we strengthen Maryland's competitive edge. Maryland can be both green and growing. And we all need to take responsibility for making the choices that will get us there.”

O'Malley called on anyone to share their views of how these issues personally affect them. He asked people to email their information to [environment@martinomalley.com](mailto:environment@martinomalley.com). He also called for an environmental summit in the next few months with environmental stakeholders from throughout the state.

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