

# Maryland League of Conservation Voters

*"We keep score for the environment"*



## Media Release

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Contact: Cindy Schwartz  
410-280-9855 x 206  
240.535.6050  
cschwartz@mdlcv.org

### **Maryland League of Conservation Voters Applauds Governor O'Malley and the BPW for Acquiring 1,043 Acres in Dorchester County** *Administration Surpasses 25,000-acre Mark for Land Conservation through Program Open Space*

**Annapolis MD** (October 21, 2009) — The Maryland League of Conservation Voters praised Governor Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works (BPW) today on their announcement of approval of the acquisition of 1,043 acres of pine forest and tidal marshland in Dorchester County through Program Open Space (POS). The total number of POS acres preserved by the O'Malley Administration now stands at 25,388.

The acquisition includes five tracts west of Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area that serves important habitats. The property will become part of Chesapeake Forest Lands, a unique project that sustainably manages working forests and supports local jobs while protecting natural areas.

"We applaud Governor O'Malley and the Board of Public Works for their actions today," said Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of The Maryland League of Conservation Voters, in response to the announcement, "This land will be protected for future generations and is yet another example of the forward thinking and commitment of this administration to the environment in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Program Open Space"

Since 2007, Governor O'Malley and the BPW have preserved more than 25,388 acres of natural areas for public use across Maryland. Since 1969, Program Open Space has provided funding for acquisition of 346,117 acres for open space and recreation areas. Most Maryland residents live within 15 minutes of an open space or recreational area funded Program Open Space.

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For more than 30 years, the non-partisan Maryland League of Conservation Voters has served as the political voice of environment. We advocate for sound conservation policies, promote environmentally responsible candidates, and hold individual elected officials accountable through our scorecards and reports.