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Governor O'Malley Earns A- for Environmental Record

Conservation Group Awards O'Malley Administration its Highest Grade to Date, Citing Substantive Efforts on Energy and Chesapeake Bay — Despite Tough Economic Times — and Environmental Ethic Across Agencies

Annapolis, MD. Today in Annapolis the Maryland League of Conservation Voters released its *Gubernatorial Mid-Term Report Card: Governor Martin O'Malley, 2007-2008* and announced that the O'Malley Administration has earned an A- for its environmental actions to date. This is the highest score the conservation watchdog group has ever given a governor, and the first-ever A grade, since the Maryland League of Conservation Voters began issuing governor's report cards in 1997.

The grade overall reflects scores in eight issue categories, broken down as follows:

Overall Grade: A-

Air Quality	A
Water Quality	B+
Climate Change	A
Energy	A
Smart Growth	A-
Transportation	B-
Fisheries & Wildlife	A
Administration & Appointments	A

Cindy Schwartz, Maryland League of Conservation Voters Executive Director, said "We are very pleased to give Governor O'Malley and his Administration an A- for their strong environmental actions. This is the highest grade we have ever awarded a governor, and this Administration has truly earned its high marks. Not only has the O'Malley Administration pro-actively worked to reduce pollution, help Marylanders use less energy, and protect the Chesapeake Bay, Governor O'Malley has also instilled an environmental ethic across all of his Agencies."

Ms. Schwartz continued: "Even though we don't on agree every issue, this Administration has gone the extra mile and has been a good partner with whom we can communicate and often find consensus. The O'Malley Administration has truly given environmentalists a 'seat at the table.' This is a reflection of how important

For more than 25 years, the non-partisan Maryland League of Conservation Voters has served as the independent, political voice of the environment. We advocate for sound conservation policies, promote environmentally responsible candidates, and hold individual elected officials accountable through our scorecards and reports.

environmental issues are today – whether it’s concern about traffic and over-development, clean air and water, global warming and energy use, or the Chesapeake Bay – this Administration is responding to the everyday concerns of Marylanders.”

Ms. Schwartz continued: “What’s especially telling is that this Administration has made the environment a priority even during tough economic times, when conservation issues are often pushed aside. Governor O’Malley truly understands that, in a state with a burgeoning population that’s centered around the Chesapeake Bay, a healthy economy and a healthy environment are intrinsically linked. Investments in both are good for everyone.”

Notable issues where the Administration earned high scores on the report include: Governor O’Malley’s support for Clean Cars legislation in 2007; the creation of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund during the 2007 special session; the creation of the Climate Change Commission and support for the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008; the Maryland Energy Administration’s 2008 comprehensive energy efficiency package; continued full funding for land conservation; and the governor’s cabinet appointments.

Areas where the Administration earned low marks include: the Administration’s continued support for the flawed Intercounty Connector and the passage of a bill delaying a phosphorous detergent ban. Areas that show promise but that continue to be monitored include: the Office of Smart Growth, stormwater regulations, and permits for poultry farms.

Ms. Schwartz continued: “This precedent-setting high grade was not awarded lightly, nor does it come without the expectation of future improvement. With this grade, Governor O’Malley has set a high bar for himself and for his Administration, a bar that Maryland LCV — and conservation voters across the state — will be watching closely in the coming months and years.”

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters’ Board of Directors and staff prepared this assessment of the environmental accomplishments of Governor Martin O’Malley with input from conservation leaders from across the state. The methodology used to prepare this and prior gubernatorial scorecards includes a thorough review of agency actions, policy positions, funding priorities, public statements, environmental advisors, and executive appointments. The full text of Governor O’Malley’s *Mid-Term Gubernatorial Report Card*, along previous report cards, may be found at <http://www.mdldcv.org/scorecards/>

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