Progressive Cheverly

progressivecheverly.org



3020 Parkway Cheverly, MD 20785

January 8, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley State House One State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of Progressive Cheverly we wish to commend and thank you for your ongoing leadership in promoting sound environmental initiatives in our state. As you well know, the Global Warming Solutions (GWS) bill will, once again, be considered by this year's session of the General Assembly. We feel it is crucial that this bill is enacted this year. Your leadership in endorsing the bill and working with Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Kumar Barve for passage of the Global Warming Solutions bill will be critical.

Progressive Cheverly is a grassroots organization of Cheverly citizens in Prince George's County that works on a variety of issues through informed political dialogue and active participation in the democratic process. Environmental issues are high on our list of priorities and a major focus for legislative and educational work on the county and state levels.

President-elect Obama's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases, creating energy independence, and combating the effects of global warming can't come too soon. The Obama appointees for Energy Secretary, the EPA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and presidential science advisor all strongly agree that there should be mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions in order to avert catastrophic climate changes. But we also know that there will still be strong political forces that will try to water down the aggressive steps that need to be taken. That is why it is crucial for Maryland to join with the other states to pass strong legislation to reduce greenhouse gases. The 2009 GWS bill is asking for a simple 25% reduction of emissions over the 2006 levels by 2020. Decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions will lessen Maryland's

vulnerability to the negative effects of global warming on the Chesapeake Bay, and will improve and protect our air quality, our eco-systems, our forests, and our food supply.

We understand that the serious economic challenges now facing our state may present a hurdle for the passage of the GWS bill. However, we believe that a long range vision is of the essence to protect our planet and preserve this world for future generations. We are grateful that you share this vision. We also believe that the passage of the GWS bill will lead the way for the creation of green jobs for Marylanders, particularly as we further reduce the use of fossil fuels, turn to cleaner energy sources, and become more energy efficient.

Again, thank you for leadership on environmental issues. We are counting on your vigorous support of the Global Warming Solutions bill and Progressive Cheverly will be doing all we can to see that our elected leaders support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

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cc.: Senator Paul Pinsky, Delegate Kumar Barve