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For Immediate Release...

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O'Malley to State Employees – Bah-humbug!

Today, Maryland State Employees have been told to stay at home without pay so that the Governor could balance the State Budget. It's the second time in a row that O'Malley has furloughed State Employees at the end of the year.

“Earlier this year, O'Malley ignored the lessons past, ignored the present economic conditions, and ignored the future economic reality to increase the state budget by over \$1 billion,” said Hogan. “Now, once again O'Malley has furloughed state employees during the holiday season to balance his budget. One could say O'Malley is the Maryland state employee's Ebenezer Scrooge.”

In the latest round of furloughs, state employees making over \$40,000 per year have had their pay docked by 8 more days and over the last year have seen their pay reduced by nearly 2 and a half weeks or roughly 5%.

“O'Malley's lack of leadership and vision to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with our ailing economy and our budget crisis has meant that state employees have had to shoulder the brunt of the budget cuts,” said Hogan. “Marylanders deserve better.”

“By following a piecemeal approach to dealing with our current budget crisis, O'Malley's friends continue to enjoy the increased spending at the expense of good hardworking Marylanders just trying to balance their family budget,” charged Hogan. “Forcing state employees, and us for that matter, to pay out of our own pockets for his continued reckless spending is just not right.”

Last December, Martin O'Malley announced the first round of furloughs for state employees. The furloughs were projected to save about \$30 million. That same day, he announced the purchase of more than \$70 million in land that was in no danger of being developed any time soon.

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