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## **Hogan: Small Businesses Need Action Now; Not Commissions**

Today, Larry Hogan, a small business owner for more than 20 years, challenged Martin O'Malley to "stop talking and take action to help Maryland small businesses."

"After three years of beating up on small businesses in Maryland, raising their taxes, and making it even harder to do business here, Martin O'Malley wants to start a commission to determine how to help them out?" questioned Hogan. "For starters, you don't raise taxes and put added burdens on small businesses and mom and pop stores, forcing them to lay off workers and close up shop."

"For someone who fancies himself as a musician, he's utterly tone deaf when it comes to the issues facing small businesses and hard working Marylanders. The sad truth is that Martin O'Malley is the worst anti-business, anti-jobs Governor Maryland has ever had," Hogan charged. "Small businesses all over the state have either left for friendlier pastures or are shutting down all together."

Maryland small businesses employ over 50% of the Maryland work force. Recent state economic numbers reveal that over 215,000 Marylanders are unemployed, the highest in 26 years.

"O'Malley has had over three years to respond to the needs and concerns of Maryland's largest employer - small businesses. He has failed to do anything to stem the tide of job loss and business migration. His record of lost jobs, higher spending, record tax increases and broken promises is unacceptable. Maryland families and small businesses deserve better", Hogan concluded.

Larry Hogan has emerged as the leading challenger to O'Malley if Ehrlich decides not to run. He is a small business owner in Anne Arundel County who served in the Ehrlich Cabinet.

In his last run for office Hogan nearly defeated the House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in what Hoyer called the toughest race of his entire political career.

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