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For Immediate Release...

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Hogan Provides State of the State Assessment

January 27, 2010 – In the absence of Martin O'Malley's State of the State report originally scheduled for today, Larry Hogan, a leading challenger, provided the following "State of the State" report:

"Our incumbent governor can't seem to decide when he wants to give his State of the State Address. Perhaps he is having difficulty trying to find a way to spin his failed record.

As a potential future governor, here is my assessment of the state of the state.

By any measure, Maryland is far worse off than ever before.

- We have a 26-year high in unemployment. Last month 219,900 Marylanders were out of work and unable to find jobs.
- We had the highest tax increases in history forced onto us. The Governor raised the income tax, the sales tax, and business taxes.
- We have more than a \$2 billion dollar budget shortfall this year, and there are billion dollar structural deficits projected long into the future.

People are suffering, families are struggling, and small businesses all over the state are either leaving for friendlier pastures or are shutting down all together.

Not only has our government not solved the serious problems, but it is actually causing the problems and making things worse.

Maryland faces a severe shortage of leadership and it starts, and ends, with our rudderless governor. On nearly every important issue facing this state, Martin O'Malley has passed the leadership buck to others and preferred to point his finger at the previous governor rather than lead.

Maryland deserves better."

At noon today, Governor Martin O'Malley was supposed to give a State of the State report to the Maryland General Assembly. He postponed it to February 4th and moved the date a second time to February 2nd.

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