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LT. GOVERNOR ANTHONY G. BROWN INAUGURAL REMARKS

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 12, 2011) – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown were sworn in today for a second term. During the inaugural ceremony, Lt. Governor Brown delivered a speech highlighting the accomplishments of the last four years and the challenges Maryland faces in coming years. The Lt. Governor was introduced by former Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry.

The full text of Lt. Governor Brown's remarks, as prepared for delivery, appear below:

"We are the state of the plowman and the fisherman. A state built on the shores of the Chesapeake. A state built from the resilience of generations of tenacious citizens. A State where our collective history reminds us that a rising tide lifts all boats. But to lift our fleet, we must ensure that all boats are seaworthy."

Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
January 19, 2011

Thank you very much County Executive Wayne Curry. Thank you for your kind introduction; for your years of pioneering service to the residents of Prince George's County and the people of Maryland; and for the advice, counsel and friendship that you've given me over the years.

My Fellow Marylanders

My fellow Marylanders, friends, neighbors: Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Lt. Governor for the past four years. Governors Mandel, Hughes and Glendening, Lt. Governors Townsend and Curran thank you for returning to our historic State House to celebrate with us, and for your service to the people of the Great State of Maryland. Speaker Busch, President Miller and my colleagues from the House of Delegates and the State Senate, thank you for your partnership and your willingness to find the common ground of progress.

To Governor O'Malley – my dear friend, my colleague, my partner in government: Thank you for your trust and your confidence in my ability. I've been honored to serve beside you and am proud of the progress we have made together under your visionary and effective leadership. And I'm grateful for First Lady Katie O'Malley and your beautiful children for the sacrifices they've made in supporting your service.

To my parents, Dr. Roy and Mrs. Lilly Brown: Thank you. You had an awesome responsibility in raising five children. You taught me the lessons of service and responsibility, the importance of compassion and understanding.



Thank you, Mom and Dad. To my brother Chris and my sister-in-law Pam: Thank you for sharing this day and for being by my side whenever I needed you. And to my precious children, Rebecca and Jonathan: I love you more than my words can express. Each day, you inspire my optimism for a better tomorrow and you make real for me everyday the importance of our work.

A Promise of Partnership

Four years ago, we stood on these very steps, promising progress and partnership. We set out to put our Great State back on track and raise a new banner of “One Maryland.” We stood on this dais, looking West, with a new philosophy – one that understands compromise is not easily achieved, but always possible and always necessary for progress.

We promised a new day and a new commitment to partnership – partnerships between the Governor and General Assembly; state and local government; public and private institutions; and with the people of Maryland. Four years ago, we promised you a government that works for all Marylanders. We vowed to restore fiscal responsibility and public accountability. We made a covenant to reach our shared goals – borne from the values that unite our diverse State – and protect the priorities we’ve set together: World class public education and public safety; A sustainable environment and healthcare for all; Priorities that expand opportunity to all Marylanders.

And four years ago, Governor, you asked me to lead and shape our efforts to improve the quality of healthcare in our state. You asked me to shape our Administration’s approach to job creation and economic development. You asked me to focus my time and attention on higher education to ensure that our children and theirs can compete in the New Economy. Thank you, Martin, for your trust and confidence in my ability.

From Partnerships, We Make Progress

We are mindful of today’s challenges – challenges few of us anticipated at the outset of our journey. Challenges that have forced families, businesses and – yes – governments to do more with less. Yet, despite dire headlines and uncertainty; because of our willingness to work together, to listen to Marylanders, we have made significant progress.

Because of our efforts to attract knowledge-based companies and research leaders to Maryland, we’re among the country’s leaders in job growth over the last two years.

Because of our investments in the great institutions at Morgan State University, and at the University System of Maryland campuses across this State... Because we protected higher education, college is more affordable today than it was in 2007 and our university system is better able to power Maryland forward in innovation. Because of record investments in the classrooms and buildings of our community colleges, we are building the nation’s most skilled and most mobile workforce. Because of our efforts to reform healthcare, we’ve expanded access to healthcare to more than 250,000 of our neighbors and have developed a national model to implement federal health care reform in Maryland – a model that will save Maryland \$830 million and cut the number of uninsured in half by 2020.

A Rising Tide; A Worthy Fleet

Our progress is not inevitable. It is not by chance. It doesn’t happen simply because we hope it will.

No. Our progress is the product of our tireless effort and persistent work. It’s the product of the choices we make. And as we look forward into the next four years, we see glimmers of hope that a real recovery is on the horizon. In

the reachable distance, we can see a wave of prosperity and opportunity. We can and we should be optimistic and enthusiastic that this tide will rise.

We are the state of the plowman and the fisherman. A state built on the shores of the Chesapeake. A state built from the resilience of generations of tenacious citizens. A State where our collective history reminds us that a rising tide lifts all boats... But to lift our fleet, we must ensure that all boats are seaworthy.

Every individual and every family must be able to navigate the tide and weather the occasional wave that comes with every rising tide. We must strengthen every Marylander and every Maryland community. And we must set out to fulfill that great American promise of equality of opportunity.

That promise is the greatest source of my optimism – of my hope. So our challenge in these next four years – and beyond – will be to continue the march of progress toward equality of opportunity for all Marylanders.

It is not enough that we are the wealthiest State in America if poverty inflicts the same communities it did when Dr. King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. It is not enough that we have the Number One public school system in the United States unless every child, in every community has access to a world class education with a highly qualified teacher at the front of the classroom. It is not enough to celebrate the innovative medicine at Johns Hopkins, at University of Maryland Medical System and NIH if the reduction in infant mortality seen in recent years is not experienced in every community of our state. It is not enough to make college more affordable when an achievement gap in college completion continues to exist.

Today's Optimism; Tomorrow's Promise

The progress we've made is laudable. Our success is worthy of celebration. We can and should be proud of where we've come. But we cannot be satisfied. We can go farther. We can do more.

As we move forward from today, let us fulfill our responsibility to ensure that no one among us is left capsized or even slipping below the waterline because we ignored the moral imperative to maintain our ships. And because we are One Maryland, we can look optimistically into the future, into tomorrow's world where our children and our grandchildren can experience the American promise, because of the commitment we've made today.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Maryland. And God bless the United States of America.

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