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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY TESTIFIES WITH FORMER IOWA GOVERNOR CHET CULVER IN SUPPORT OF THE MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY ACT OF 2012

Annapolis, Maryland (February 14, 2012) — Today, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley testified on the need to harness the outstanding wind resources ten miles off of Ocean City. Joining Governor O'Malley in delivering testimony was former Iowa Governor Chet Culver, a noted proponent of wind energy systems and former chairman of the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition. The testimony was delivered in support of the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 (Senate Bill 237). The bill is jointly sponsored by The President and Senators Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, King, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Montgomery, Ramirez, Robey, and Rosapepe.

"An offshore wind farm off Maryland's coast will bring numerous benefits to the State, including homegrown clean energy, sustainable jobs, reduced public health costs, lowered greenhouse gas emissions and significant progress towards meeting the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) with local generation," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Research conducted in Maryland over the past year shows tremendous job creation and economic development potential in the State resulting from the clustering of manufacturing and deployment infrastructure around an early offshore wind project."

The Honorable Chet Culver shared his state's experience as an early adopter of land based wind technologies. Due to investments made under his leadership, Iowa now generates almost 20% of its electricity from wind, employs thousands in manufacturing and operations, and grew over 200 small businesses as part of the wind supply chain.

"By being an early mover in offshore wind, Maryland has the potential to experience similar economic development and job creation," Governor Culver said.

The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 creates a mechanism to incentivize the development of up to 500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind capacity, at least ten nautical miles off of Maryland's coast. A target project size of 310 MW would require the installation of between 50 and 100 wind turbines, depending on which turbines were deployed. The expected benefits of creating offshore wind energy for Maryland include the following:

- ▲ **JOBS:** Based on a recent report from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a 310 MW project would create **almost 1,300 manufacturing and construction jobs for 5 years** and an additional **250 ongoing supply and O&M jobs** thereafter. Additional projects, both in Maryland and in the region, would lead to a significant new sustainable industry for Maryland workers.

- ⤴ **HOMEGROWN ENERGY:** Maryland imports approximately 30% of the electricity we consume every year. This leads to significant transmission congestion and high line losses, which raises rates for Maryland ratepayers. Maryland currently exports about 90% of its non-solar renewable dollars out of state. A 310 MW project would supply enough electricity to power **half the homes on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, or more than a third of the homes in Baltimore City.**
- ⤴ **A HEALTHIER ECONOMY:** Recent data from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) suggest that health impacts caused by **burning fossil fuels for electricity cost the average Maryland household almost \$73 per month**, creating a drag on Maryland's economy. A 310 MW project would **save Maryland's economy over \$27 million per year** in public health costs, according to the NAS report, and perhaps as much as \$100 million per year according to an independent analysis by Dr. Jonathan Levy of Boston University School of Public Health.
- ⤴ **PRICE STABILITY:** During the period from 1999 to 2009, energy costs to Maryland ratepayers roughly doubled. While offshore wind capital costs are high compared to traditional fossil fuel generation, the **fuel cost is zero**, rendering the operational costs highly competitive. Early investments in land-based wind have helped drive down costs to the point that land-based wind energy is often cheaper than fossil fuels, and in many parts of the country wind energy is keeping electricity prices down for ratepayers. Similar investments in offshore wind will help make Maryland's electricity supply more environmentally and economically sustainable.
- ⤴ **CLEAN, RENEWABLE POWER:** A 310 MW offshore wind project will reduce emissions of the greenhouse gas, CO₂, by 586,000 tons per year and promise improved public health outcomes, cleaner air and cleaner water. The Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires that Maryland get 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2022.
- ⤴ **SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Based on a regional employment model analysis by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the total economic impact of offshore wind over five years is almost \$2 billion, with \$8.7 million in additional state tax revenues. This figure includes direct and indirect effects.

More about the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 is available on MEA's website:
<http://energy.maryland.gov/documents/MDOSWEnergyActof2012.pdf>.

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.