

# THE COMMON GOOD



John Cornell

**W**e created BayStat in 2007 to help us target and track Maryland's efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. I am pleased to report that, by working together with partners throughout our State, we have made significant progress since then.

We have preserved nearly 24,000 acres of land through Program Open Space. We have strengthened our Critical Areas Law and enacted landmark Greenhouse Gas legislation. Our blue crab population has begun to rebound, our bay grasses have increased 20 percent from 2008, and many water quality stations are showing reduced nitrogen pollution. Maryland scientists are exploring a "tipping point" theory, where restoration progress in some Bay tributaries may have begun to jumpstart self-recovery within those smaller systems.

We recently adopted new 2-year milestones that will allow us to hold ourselves — and not some future group of policy makers — accountable, and a new commitment from our federal government will direct more resources to Bay restoration.

Despite our efforts and the efforts of the federal government, however, we cannot protect our Bay alone. True progress will require the full commitment and involvement of our local governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and of course, our fellow citizens.

All Maryland families, even those who do not live within the watershed, benefit from what the Chesapeake brings to our great State. And everything we do, from planting trees and conserving energy, to recycling and picking up after pets, is part of the solution to improving the health of the Bay.

Working together as One Maryland, and with our partners across the watershed, we can create a smarter, greener, more sustainable future for Maryland families and our treasured Chesapeake Bay.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Martin O'Malley  
Governor