

Rebuild and Renew America Now!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2009

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Unlikely Allies Team Up to Kick Off Campaign to Pass President Obama's Historic Budget, a Transformative Blueprint for Rebuilding and Renewing America

As Part of Major National Effort, Groups Urge Rep. Frank Kratovil & Others to Turn the Page on the Failed Policies of the Past, Support Historic Investments in Health Care, Education, Clean Energy

Event features release of data on Maryland impact of federal budget proposal

Annapolis, Maryland – On Wednesday, March 25 at 12:00pm, environmental groups, low-income advocates, state legislators, and labor and community leaders gathered at the Annapolis Dock at the foot of Main Street for the local kickoff of a major national campaign to pass President Obama's historic budget, a transformational blueprint for rebuilding and renewing America. While President Obama inherited the nation's worst economic crisis in generations, and the largest deficit in history, his budget resets America's priorities in historic fashion to rebuild and renew America for the challenges we face now and in the future. Participants are urging U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil (D, 1st Congressional District) and the rest of Maryland's Congressional delegation to turn away from the failed economic policies of the past and support these important investments in our future, including health care reform, education, and clean energy --- investments that will expand opportunities for all and strengthen the economy.

More than 100 national organizations – many of which led the fight to pass President Obama's jobs and economic recovery package last month -- have signed onto the multi-million dollar national campaign to 'Rebuild and Renew America Now' and will ratchet up all the same tools, techniques and strategies behind the successful campaign to pass the President's jobs plan into law last month, from grassroots events, grasstops contacts, paid phones and email campaigns into Members of Congress' offices, and paid advertising. The national website is www.RebuildandRenew.org.

In Maryland the participating organizations include:

- Environment Maryland
- Maryland Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
- ACORN
- Progressive Maryland
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- AFSCME
- AFL-CIO
- Maryland Cash Campaign
- Md. Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform

Quotes from Rebuild and Renew member organizations in Maryland

Patrick Moran, Executive Director, AFSCME Maryland:

“President Obama's new budget plan fundamentally transforms the priorities of our country. It turns the page on the failed policies of the past and makes a down payment on the new priorities that will revive our economy for the long run – like affordable health care, energy independence and creating new jobs. Some say President Obama is trying to do too much. But the fact is, he's doing exactly what we elected him to do – bring big change to America that puts regular people first for a change.”

www.RebuildandRenew.org

Anne S. Kasper, Ph.D., Chair of the Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform:

“Maryland's women support passage of President Obama's budget resolution as a first step towards making sure that every Marylander has comprehensive health care.”

Johanna Neumann, Maryland PIRG State Director:

"The sobering new deficit projections deliver a stark message that the economy is in even worse shape than was previously thought. It also underscores the urgent need to make strategic investments in our economy to control the cost of healthcare and expand educational opportunities, laid out the President's budget. If we don't deal with the major underlying problems with the economy and make it possible for business to create jobs, our deficits will only continue to explode. We simply cannot achieve sustainable economic growth without fixing our broken health care system and investing in tomorrow's educated workforce. Bottom line: the most effective way for Congress to begin to regain control of the federal deficit is to support the President's budget plan that is blueprint for rebuilding and renewing America."

Fred D. Mason, Jr., President, Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO:

“Working families throughout Maryland saw their standard of living fall in the current decade even before the recession began, and now it is dropping off a cliff. Drastic action is needed. It is time to invest in America, now and for the future. We need to put people to work rebuilding and renewing our infrastructure and creating the new green jobs for the 21st century. President Obama’s budget gets it right and starts moving us in the right direction again. The investments in our nation’s future that President Obama is calling for will help make America more energy efficient, make health care better and more affordable, help more Americans go to college and compete in the global economy, and create good jobs that will rebuild our middle class. Building upon the President’s jobs and economic recovery plan, these historic investments will protect Americans from the economic pitfalls of this recession and sow the seeds of a sustainable prosperity. The priorities put forward in the President’s budget will turn back the harsh trend of rising poverty, unemployment, hunger and homelessness.”

Tommy Landers, Policy Advocate, Environment Maryland:

"President Obama's proposed budget includes \$646 billion in revenue from capping global warming pollution and requiring polluters to pay for 100 percent of allowances to pollute. To do what science justifies in order to protect future generations, we must ultimately reduce pollution even faster than is assumed in the President's budget. America must cut global warming pollution by 35 percent below today's levels by 2020. We support passing the President's budget and call on Congress to build on this budget with a comprehensive approach to energy and global warming legislation. The revenue generated from the cap on global warming pollution will be directed to \$15 billion a year to fund clean energy investments. Capping global warming pollution and investing in clean energy will both protect the planet and transform the way America uses energy, reducing our dependence on oil while harnessing the wind and the sun to repower America. It will also put millions of Americans to work in new green jobs - building wind turbines, installing solar panels, weatherizing homes, and laying a smarter electric grid that will power our new energy economy."

Carolyn Taylor Chester, member of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Wesley Home in Baltimore:

"As a healthcare worker, I see firsthand the effects of our broken healthcare system. We've been talking about this broken system for years but now I'm seeing change and I know that we've got to work hard to see that change. That's why I support President Obama's budget -- because it includes a commitment to real health care reform."

Rev. Gloria Swieringa, Chairwoman, Maryland ACORN:

“While President Obama inherited the nation’s worst economic crisis in generations, and the largest deficit in history, his budget resets America’s priorities in historic fashion to rebuild and renew America for the challenges we face now and in the future. From returning fairness to our tax code, to taking control of the federal deficit, to making significant down payments on health care reform, an energy policy to reverse global climate change, and education, President Obama’s budget is not just a list of line items or plusses and minuses – it is the blueprint for transformational change which Americans voted for in November.”

Matthew Weinstein, Federal Issues Director of Progressive Maryland and Maryland Coordinator of Health Care for America Now:

“Health Care for America Now joined the Rebuild and Renew coalition to support the President’s budget because it includes \$634 billion over 10 years as a down payment toward the expected \$1 trillion 10-year upfront cost of comprehensive health care reform. Investing up front is the only way to fix the system and save trillions over the years and decades to come, making high quality health care more affordable and lifting an enormous burden from our economy.”