

**Greater Baltimore Committee  
Long-Term Strategic Priorities**

**Regional Transportation.** Advocate for the development of a comprehensive integrated transportation network and regional transit system.

**Life Science Initiatives.** Coordinate business support and advocacy for life science industry growth.

**Bridging the Gap.** Strengthen minority and women-owned business in the region.

**Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).** Prepare for growth and BRAC-related infrastructure needs.

**Baltimore and Washington, D.C.** Develop teamwork between Maryland's two metropolitan regions on business climate issues.

**Energy Solutions for Maryland.** Develop solutions to address Maryland's energy crisis through increased generation and transmission capacity, renewable energy resources and conservation efforts.

**Building a World Class Workforce.** Prepare and develop a highly educated workforce that is competitive to meet the challenges of today's knowledge-based global economy.

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE  
2009 Legislative Agenda**

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One thing is clear about the 2009 session of the Maryland General Assembly: It cannot be business as usual. These days of reckoning will be painful, but constructive if Maryland engages in meaningful belt-tightening and serious fiscal priority setting.

Maryland must now squarely confront the expense side of the budget and cut spending. If done properly, however, this exercise could prove to be constructive. Forced to prioritize, now is the time to closely scrutinize all state agencies and programs, checking their original missions, gauging the extent to which they have expanded, and thoroughly examining whether they are efficient and quantifiably effective.

Programs and initiatives should be weighed against how well they make a return on their investment. For example, when examining tourism funding, legislators should keep in mind that the tourism industry creates 116,000 jobs in Maryland and

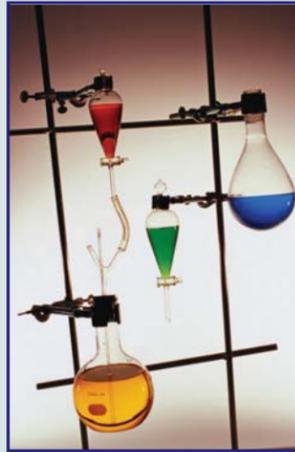
generates almost \$900 million in state and local taxes. Transportation funding remains a huge challenge for Maryland — one that likely won't be resolved this session. Nevertheless, lawmakers could help by doing three important things: refraining from raiding the state's Transportation Trust Fund again, making sure financial resources remain committed to the east-west Red Line in Baltimore, and providing funding for transportation projects related to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

Maryland's government faces big fiscal challenges. But our state's entire business and civic community is also on tenuous economic ground. This is a session for government to get back to the basics of education, public safety, infrastructure and health care. This year should be about maintaining and leveraging our state's investment to ensure our competitive strength for future success.

# GBC 2009 Legislative Agenda

## Bioscience

- The GBC supports funding of Governor O'Malley's BIO 2020 Initiative to attract and grow biotechnology companies in Maryland through leveraging our science and technology assets.
- The GBC strongly supports dedicating funds in the budget to provide tax credits for investments in biotechnology or venture capital companies.
- The GBC supports the continued State investment in bioscience facilities (Science + Technology Park @ Hopkins and University of Maryland, Baltimore BioPark) in recognition of the business opportunities they present and the national recognition provided to the state that this emerging industry represents.



have on Maryland businesses and revenue. The current economic conditions make it unwise to pass legislation substantively changing tax policy until the study is complete.

- Tax credits have proven to be a sound investment tool to spur economic growth. The GBC supports retaining business tax credits including:
  - The extension of current funding for heritage structure tax credits or reform of the program to ensure that heritage structure revitalization projects can move forward to serve its legitimate purpose to renew historical properties and preserve our state's history.
  - The GBC urges the Governor and General Assembly to increase the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit cap to ensure a competitive environment with our neighboring states.

## Education

- The Greater Baltimore Committee continues its support of investing in higher education to ensure that Maryland has a highly qualified and trained workforce to serve our growing knowledge-based economy. This includes the funding of community colleges to enhance access to higher education opportunities for all income levels and to provide an avenue for customized job training skills.
- The GBC supports the continued funding of charter schools as an alternative educational opportunity.
- The GBC supports efforts to increase the number of qualified teachers in the state through the utilization of programs for alternative teaching certification.

## Energy/Environment

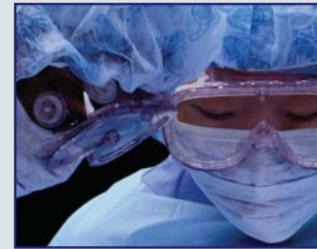
- The Greater Baltimore Committee supports legislation that incrementally reduces "greenhouse gas" emissions provided that the proposal does not negatively impact the competitive environment of Maryland businesses or is cost-prohibitive or technologically impractical to implement.

- The GBC urges the General Assembly to pass a joint resolution encouraging the federal government to aggressively move forward with national climate control legislation.
- The GBC supports a more stable and predictable regulatory policy environment.



## Health Care

- The Greater Baltimore Committee continues to support the Center for Health Workforce Development's recommendations for increasing the number of nursing and other health care workers in the state. These efforts should include a focus on retaining and attracting health care professionals by creating a better working environment.
- The GBC urges the General Assembly to remain committed to the Medicaid expansion which will assist in lowering premiums by reducing the number of uninsured in the system.
- The GBC supports funding for drug treatment.



## Public Safety

- The GBC supports tougher restrictions on pretrial release for repeat violent offenders.
- The GBC supports efforts to remove barriers to employment and financial stability, such as increasing the number of drug treatment options for ex-offenders both behind the fence and following release, and the issuance of state identification designed to assist ex-offenders with their reintegration efforts.

## Transportation

- The GBC urges the General Assembly to commit the financial resources necessary to ensure full funding of the planning, design and construction of the Red Line from western Baltimore County through downtown Baltimore and ending in southeast Baltimore City.
- GBC continues its long standing support of establishing a "firewall" protecting the integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund to ensure the maintenance and expansion of our state's transportation system.
- The GBC supports the planning and design of the Green Line extension from Johns Hopkins Hospital to Morgan State University and into Baltimore County.
- The GBC supports and encourages increased MARC commuter and Amtrak service between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and increased MARC service north of Baltimore.
- The GBC supports eliminating statutory restrictions on federal and state funds to pursue the Maglev system.
- The GBC urges the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop systems and processes that would "fast track" the approval and construction of transportation infrastructure projects needed to meet the demands of BRAC and commuter routes between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.
- The GBC is committed to the sustainability and development of Maryland's transportation infrastructure. The GBC has created the Transportation Financing and Governance Task Force to study the manner in which transportation is funded and managed in Maryland. A report and recommendations will be issued later this year.



## Growing the Economic Base

- In such strained economic times, the State has the fiscal responsibility, now more than ever, to closely scrutinize public spending. Throughout the appropriations process, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges the Governor and the General Assembly to demand that spending be directed toward the fulfillment of an agency's principal mission or objective. Programs should be thoroughly reviewed and be subject to an examination process to verify that agency spending is meeting its intended mission and maximum effort should be made to invest state resources on projects or programs that leverage economic growth for the state.



- The Business Tax Reform Commission should be permitted to complete its legislative mandate to examine the impact that "combined reporting" may