

**Press release from the office of Maryland Governor Marin O'Malley**

**Keith Campbell, Chairman of the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment received a special 30th Anniversary "Pearl" Award**

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 19, 2009)** –The Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) honored Senator Barbara Mikulski with its annual John V. Kabler Memorial Award in recognition of her many achievements in protecting Maryland's Land, Air and Water. The award recognizes outstanding environmental leadership and commitment.

The environmental organization known for its annual legislative report cards also gave a special 30th Anniversary "Pearl" Award to Keith Campbell, Chairman of the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, for his efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and combat global warming.

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, four term U.S. Senator has a thirty-five year record of public service in Maryland. She is a dedicated public servant who from her earliest days in the spotlight understood what was "Smart Growth" and what was not— long before anyone had ever heard the term. As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, she fights every year for federal funding for environmental programs, especially the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

A trailblazer in drawing attention to the effects of global warming on the Bay, Mikulski funds 85% of the nation's climate change-related science as Chairwoman of Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee. Her stalwart defense of the environment in Maryland is embodied in her support for building a green jobs workforce, protecting the Chesapeake Bay, and for a clean energy economy.

"I'm so honored to accept this award. From the House to the Senate, I've loved any legislation that had water in it. Using my committee assignments, I've tried to be a champion for saving communities, saving lives and, in some small way, saving the planet," Senator Mikulski said. "I'll continue to fight for the Bay, and invest in the green sciences so we have the right ideas to come up with the right science to combat the global climate change crisis. Thank you for honoring me tonight. I'm so proud to be your partner in fighting for a greener, cleaner future."

"We are thrilled to honor Sen. Mikulski for her long and accomplished record of protecting the Environment for people of Maryland," said Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. "We created a special 'Pearl' award in recognition of our 30th anniversary. Keith Campbell's unwavering commitment over the last ten years to the environment and continuing support of the work of Maryland LCV makes him the obvious choice".

Keith Campbell, considered Maryland's most prominent environmental philanthropist, founded

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment in 2002 to make an impact in the protection of wildlife and wild places that he cherished as a child. In just eleven years the Campbell Foundation has supported more than \$50 million in grants in the Chesapeake and Pacific regions and is recognized as the top private funder for Chesapeake Bay waterways. Under Campbell's leadership, the Foundation promotes policy, advocacy and enforcement to improve water quality conditions. He is also actively engaged in the national effort to address climate change and ocean issues.

Campbell, commenting on his Pearl award said, "It's an honor to receive this special 30th Anniversary award. With so many pressing issues, including climate change and a new approach to healing the bay, I accept this award as a call to carry on the fight"

Guest speakers at the annual event included Governor Martin O'Malley and J. Charles Fox, Senior Advisor to the President for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Maryland LCV and the guest speakers discussed the need for conservation and political leaders to take action now to address Maryland's pressing environmental issues, including the bay and climate change.

"Sen. Mikulski's legacy will be one of a cleaner Maryland and brighter future for the people of Maryland" said Fred Hoover, Chair of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters.

Coincidentally, Monday morning, Maryland's Senator Ben Cardin and Representative Elijah Cumming (MD7), introduced legislation that will strengthen the Clean Water Act for the Chesapeake Bay and will help improve water quality, including our streams, rivers, and wetlands. This legislation is undeniably clear about the EPA's role.

"We must do all we can to protect our natural resources, particularly Maryland's treasured Chesapeake Bay, and we are fortunate to have leaders like Senator Mikulski and Keith Campbell on our side for this fight," said Governor O'Malley. "Their efforts to pass the Clean Water Act for the Chesapeake Bay recently introduced by Senator Cardin will help bring a new level of accountability and efficiency to our clean-up efforts in order to restore the Bay for future generations of Marylanders."

J. Charles Fox said "It is important that we honor the leaders who have fought tirelessly for a restored Chesapeake Bay and clean water in communities. As we renew and deepen the cleanup effort in months and years ahead, we will be looking to these special individuals for their strong leadership and invaluable assistance."

### ***John V. Kabler Memorial Award***

*Established in 2001, the John V. Kabler Memorial Award honors the vision and accomplishments of John V. Kabler (1942-1996). Motivated to act on behalf of the environment in the wake of the Three Mile Island crisis in the late 1970s, Kabler inspired his environmental colleagues to become active in political campaigns. Together these leaders founded the Maryland LCV in 1979. Until his death in 1996, Kabler was a key leader of the Maryland conservation movement. Past recipients of the John V. Kabler Memorial Award include Governor Parris Glendening, U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, Maryland Senator Brian Frosh, EPA Administrator Russell Train, the Chesapeake Waterkeepers, U.S. Senator Joseph Tydings, Governor Harry Hughes and Congressman Wayne Gilchrest.*