



The Maryland Port Administration

PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR O'MALLEY APPOINTS PETA RICHKUS TO MARYLAND PORT COMMISSION

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of former Maryland Department of General Services Secretary Peta N. Richkus to the Maryland Port Commission. Ms. Richkus, who will serve a three-year term, replaces former commissioner Brenda Dandy. The six-member port commission establishes policies directed toward improving the competitive position of the Port of Baltimore within the international maritime industry. Ms. Richkus joins current commissioners William Dockser, Donald C. Fry, Alvin J. Nichols, Theodore Venetoulis, and Charles H. White, Jr.

"Peta Richkus brings a very strong procurement and planning background to the Port Commission," said Governor O'Malley. "Her previous experience with real estate and land acquisition will be a great help as we look to grow an already impressive Port of Baltimore business portfolio."

Ms. Richkus served as secretary of DGS from 1993 to 2003. As the State's landlord, procurement officer and real estate agent, she was responsible for 725 employees, an \$81.5 million operating budget, a \$430 million capital budget, and statewide procurement responsibilities for the goods and services of more than \$800 million annually. Under the leadership of Ms. Richkus, DGS achieved national recognition in the areas of technology, innovation, and effectiveness in government. Some of those awards included: the National Federation of the Blind - Accessibility Leadership Award; Congress for the New Urbanism - Award of Excellence, 2002; eGov Government Solutions Center-Pioneer Award ; and the Design/Build Institute of America - Best Public Project over \$15 million (Miller Senate Office Building).

Prior to appointment as DGS Secretary, Ms. Richkus had a successful 20-plus year career in the private sector, most recently as senior vice president of Buchart-Horn, Inc., an international planning, design and construction management firm. Since leaving State government, Ms. Richkus has taught government and business courses at the University of Baltimore and Towson University. She has also consulted with private firms in areas of management, marketing and strategic planning.

Ms. Richkus is an honors graduate from the University of Rhode Island. She received her MBA Summa cum Laude from the University of Baltimore. Ms. Richkus is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

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The Port of Baltimore employs about 16,500 workers. Out of 361 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling imported forest products, roll on/roll off cargo, trucks, exported autos, and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port of Baltimore is ranked 13th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. In 2006, the Port was responsible for \$3.6 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generated \$388 million in state and local taxes.

As a result of its outstanding work to increase U.S. exports, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) which oversees the public terminals at the Port of Baltimore, was honored in 2007 with the Presidential “E” award. The award was created in 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly to increase U.S. exports. The MPA was awarded this special distinction for its increased export business over the last several years. The MPA, which also won the “E” award in 1964, is only the 23rd port organization out of 361 total ports in the U.S. to win the highly acclaimed recognition. It is only the fourth port to win the award twice.

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