

# On climate, O'Malley should reach out to Harris

*August 20, 2013*

Thank you for Carol Browner's commentary appreciating Gov. [Martin O'Malley](#)'s climate change efforts ("The importance of Maryland's leadership on climate change," Aug. 18). However, she didn't mention that Governor O'Malley could also reach out to Maryland's congressional delegation encouraging them to support congressional legislation to lower emissions and stabilize the climate. In particular, he could encourage Rep. [Andy Harris](#) to meet with others in the delegation to fashion a bipartisan climate change bill.

Since many areas of the 1st District are threatened by climate change, Representative Harris has strong incentive to sponsor climate change legislation. The slow disappearance of Chesapeake islands like [Tangier](#) Island and Smith Island due to climate change's rising seas is a slow motion tragedy happening in Mr. Harris' district, and it is being watched with great sympathy by folks across the country and internationally.

Mr. O'Malley could visit the islands with Mr. Harris, express support for residents and investigate what they can do together to stabilize the situation. Many in the media label Mr. Harris as a climate change denier, but usually congressmen express doubt about climate change only because they haven't seen a policy they think will work without burdening individuals. A revenue-neutral carbon tax is the ideal policy because it won't harm individuals, will reduce emissions and will encourage investors to invest in new clean energy technologies leading to new jobs.

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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/readersrespond/bs-ed-climate-change-letter-20130819,0,2256916.story>