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2 March, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Former Md. Gov. Robert Ehrlich to Speak at Chamber's upcoming 2010 Annual Meeting**

### **Governor to tell businesses how to get legislative support**

SHAMOKIN DAM – Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., former governor of Maryland, will deliver the keynote address at the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting on March 11 at Susquehanna University.

The governor will discuss the business climate through the lens of politics and encourage small business owners to increase their engagement with government policy makers. He will explain to local business owners why their organizations tend to be ignored by lawmakers, and how they can improve economic policy at the local, state and federal level.

The former governor is a personal friend of GSVCC President and CEO Charlie Ross, who worked with him for several years as a lawyer and chamber director in Maryland. He invited him for his extensive public service background, his appreciation of a robust business-driven economy and the international scope of his perspective.

Gov. Ehrlich will be available for interviews following his speech to answer questions pertaining to the conference. His brief biography is included below.

His noon remarks will complement those of an educator and economist, who will deliver their own keynote speeches in the accompanying "Strategic Thinking" Conference, which runs around the lunchtime Annual Meeting.

L. Jay Lemons, president of Susquehanna University, will kick off the conference with a 9 a.m. speech, and economist Anirban Basu, president and CEO of Sage Policy Group, Baltimore, Md., will close it with a 4 p.m. address.

Together the speakers will help the local business community view the Susquehanna Valley through the three lenses of politics, education and economics.

All members of the media are invited to attend the conference and annual meeting, which runs on March 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Susquehanna University's Charles B. Degenstein Campus Center. The Annual Meeting runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A media advisory will be sent out closer to the date.

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*Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. became Maryland's first Republican governor in 36 years when he was elected in 2002 after serving as a U.S. congressman and a state legislator. During his four-year term, Gov. Ehrlich helped turn a \$4 billion budget deficit into a \$2.3 billion surplus, authored Maryland's first public charter schools law and enacted the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act. He also toughened penalties for certain crimes and established Maryland's Office of Homeland Security. He left office in 2007 and has not yet announced whether he will run again for election this year against incumbent democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley.*

*Gov. Ehrlich lives in Annapolis, Md., with his wife, Kendel, and two sons, Drew and Joshua. He is currently a member at the law firm Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC in Baltimore.*