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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Maloney Gets an Endorsement...From Don Blankenship  
Democrats Call on Maloney to Return Money**

While Governor Earl Ray Tomblin has earned the endorsement from nearly every newspaper, labor union, and business group in West Virginia, Bill Maloney has managed to get backing from none other than Don Blankenship. According to campaign finances filings with the Sec. of State's office and media reports, Don Blankenship, and his family, donated at least \$4,000 to the Maloney campaign.

WV Democratic Party Chairman Larry Puccio had the following to say after learning of Don Blankenship's backing of Maloney's campaign for governor:

"It is no surprise that Don Blankenship has thrown his support behind Maloney. Maloney, like Blankenship, has spent millions of dollars of his money trying to buy an election in West Virginia and his campaign employs several of Blankenship's former political operatives. While he cannot escape the fact that they are connected to each other, I call on Bill Maloney to return Don Blankenship's money and reject everything that he stands for."

In 2006, while Blankenship spent millions to influence elections for the legislature, the WV Democratic Party called on Republican candidates to refund Blankenship's campaign cash. A few did so, while most others went down in defeat as Democrats had a net gain of six seats that year.

Puccio added, "I believe that next Tuesday, on election night, the voters of West Virginia will give Maloney something else in common with Blankenship...a resounding defeat at the polls."

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