The Maryland Port Administration
PRESS RELEASE

PORT OF BALTIMORE TO LAUNCH
RO/RO SERVICE TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Monthly Service Via Hoegh Autoliners to Begin in March

(BALTIMORE, MD) -- The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore will begin new roll on/roll off (ro/ro) service to New Zealand and Australia in March. The monthly service on Hoegh Autoliners will commence in Baltimore then include service to the ports of Auckland, Brisbane, Port Kembla, Melbourne and Fremantle.

"As one of Maryland's leading economic engines, the Port of Baltimore continues to expand its reach around the world," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Our administration will continue to support the Port and the thousands of hardworking Marylanders who make this world-class facility a source of pride for our state."

The first sailing will be on the *Hoegh Jeddah,* which is scheduled to call on the Port of Baltimore on March 14th. The Port of Baltimore handles more autos, light trucks and high and heavy farm and construction equipment than any other U.S. port. The Port of Baltimore was recently named the fourth fastest-growing port in North America and has been recognized as one of the most efficient container ports in the U.S. for the past three years.

Baltimore's port is ranked as the top among all U.S. ports for handling autos and light trucks, farm and construction machinery and imported sugar. Overall Baltimore is ranked ninth for the total dollar value of cargo and 14th for cargo tonnage for all U.S. ports.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 13,650 direct jobs, while about 127,600 jobs in Maryland are linked to Port activities. The Port is responsible for nearly $3 billion in personal wages and salary and more than $300 million in state and local tax revenues.

# # #