



Dear Friends,

This past week, the Senate passed the first part of Maryland's budget, and I joined with Senators from both sides of the aisle to support the budget. This year's budget includes a 5.7% increase in funding for public safety programs, as well as an increase to \$1.2 million for the Department of Agriculture's manure transport program, which is a valuable program for our poultry farmers all across Maryland. Our budget also includes over \$6 billion in K-12 funding to ensure that we keep improving our schools, while paying our teachers their well-earned salaries. I was proud to work with my Senate colleagues to include an amendment to the budget that requires that an economic impact study be performed before the phosphorous management tool can be implemented. This amendment accomplishes the goals I laid out in [Senate Bill 27](#) earlier this session.

I am pleased to let you know that the Kathleen A. Mathias Oral Chemotherapy Improvement Act, Senate Bill 641, passed the House of Delegates unanimously and is awaiting the signature of Governor O'Malley. The bill was amended in the House of Delegates to become emergency legislation, meaning that it will become law as soon as the governor signs the bill.

This past Friday, the Eastern Shore delegation held its last meeting for the 2014 legislative session. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation joined us and we spoke with them about the need to find solutions that work for all parties involved so that we can continue our work to clean up the bay, without placing a strain on our local farmers. The delegation was also briefed about a pilot program in Queen Anne's county to bring down the costs for water quality improvement projects.

This week there was a bill hearing for legislation I sponsored this session:

[Senate Bill 1079, Tuesday, March 18, 1:00pm](#): This bill will allow the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue alcoholic beverage licenses within Berlin and Snow Hill. This legislation was requested by the Worcester County commissioners. The hearing for SB 1079 was in the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee.

Knowing how crucial [small businesses](#), [agriculture](#), [tourism](#), and [watermen](#) are to our way of life on the Shore, these links will take you to the General Assembly website and let you see all the bills filed on those topics. You can also click [here to search for legislation on other topics](#).

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am responsible for reviewing legislation related to energy, health insurance, labor law, transportation and a variety of other important

issues. Last week, the Finance Committee had a busy week of bill hearings and voting sessions; follow everything that the Finance Committee does by [clicking here](#).

The deadline to apply for legislative scholarships is April 1, 2014. For more information about how to apply for a scholarship, please contact our district office at 410-352-3096.

For more information about what is going on in Annapolis, please reach out to our office at 410-841-3645 or toll-free at 1-800-492-7122, ex. 3645. You can also email me at james.mathias@senate.state.md.us. As always, if I can be of assistance to you, or if you have an idea you want to share with me, please contact me anytime.

Always working for you...and together getting the job done,

Jim