



Dear Friends,

As you know, earlier in the session I introduced and testified on behalf of my bill to require that an economic impact study be conducted before the phosphorous management tool could be implemented. It's crucial that the state understand the impact that proposed regulations will have on the people that will have to follow those regulations. This past week, working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, [I was successful in adding an amendment to the state budget](#) that would require that an economic impact study be conducted before the state could implement the phosphorous management tool. I will keep working with my Senate and House of Delegates colleagues to keep that amendment in the budget.

This past week, we were joined at the Eastern Shore delegation meeting by representatives from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where they briefed us about their plans to expand enrollment to 6,000 students by 2024. They also spoke about their partnership with NASA and Wallops Island for an Aviation Science program. [MARBIDCO](#) spoke with us about their work on the Eastern Shore, specifically mentioning funding for 20 new chicken houses or property purchases, that they have made 51 loans to commercial fisherman, and that 70% of all statewide investments come to the Eastern Shore. Congressman Andy Harris joined the delegation to speak about his work in Congress relating to the Conowingo Dam, Chesapeake Bay pollution, and the phosphorous management tool.

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

[Senate Bill 1001, Tuesday, March 12, 1:00pm](#): This bill will require that divided highways with traffic lights also have a crosswalk. This legislation will help make our local highways safer for pedestrians.

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