SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH Legislative District 30 Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcomittees

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on Program Open Space/Agricultural Land Preservation

Dear Neighbor:



James Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street, Room 104 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578 800-492-7122 Ext. 3578 Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156 Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Maryland General Assembly recently adjourned the 445th Legislative Session on April 10th and I am proud to report on the work that transpired over those 90 days.

For the first time in decades, Maryland swore in new individuals to every statewide constitutional office. That changing of the guard, including a new Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General, has created a more cohesive State government with a refreshed level of partnership between the Executive branch and Maryland General Assembly. It is also a privilege to once again report that the Maryland Senate in particular is a place of bipartisan collaboration where 90 percent of bills pass unanimously and 95 percent of bills pass bipartisanly. I'm also proud to share that, per the standard I set for myself in my first term as your Senator, every piece of legislation I sponsored this year received bipartisan support.

As a result of that increased level of collaboration, we were able to truly make the most of our 90-day legislative session despite an increased level of economic uncertainty and difficult budgetary decisions. We made historic investments in public education through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, created a path to economic prosperity for working families by accelerating the State's \$15 an hour minimum wage and strengthening the Earned Income Tax Credit, expanded our support for veterans and military families, and responded to the recent extreme United States Supreme Court decisions by safeguarding the right to abortion access and increasing public safety by limiting the number of guns in our communities.

In this end-of-session letter, you will find updates on the accomplishments this legislative session, the 15 pieces of legislation I authored that are now on the Governor's desk, Maryland's balanced budget, the almost \$35 million in capital and operating funding we are bringing home to District 30, and major legislation passed by the General Assembly. It is the privilege of my life to represent you in the Maryland Senate. Thank you for your continued faith, counsel, and engagement.

Legislative Victories

In addition to working to pass a balanced budget and co-sponsoring legislation on an array of issues, I am proud to report that **15 of the 23** bills I sponsored passed, **all with bipartisan votes.** I'm particularly grateful to the many individuals and advocacy groups who helped to shepherd these bills to passage. These victories include:

Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention (*SB526/HB723*): In an historic win for our forests, SB526/HB723 meaningfully updates the Forest Conservation Act for the first time since 1991 to ensure that Maryland meets a "no-net-loss" goal for of forest preservation – all while providing our localities with important flexibility in reaching this critical goal.

Public Safety - State Disaster Recovery Fund (*SB650/HB789*): In the wake of the 2021 tornado that impacted Annapolis and Edgewater, it was clear that the State is not equipped to rapidly deploy resources to help Marylanders and local governments after such disasters. This legislation creates the "State Disaster Recovery Fund" in the Department of Emergency Management to better and more rapidly deploy State support during crises.

Maryland the Beautiful Act (*SB470/HB631*): This legislation will put in law a conservation goal of preserving 30% of our State's lands by 2030 and 40% by 2040. It will also empower the Smart Growth Subcabinet to coordinate the differing State Agencies to meet this goal and provide important funding to our Land Trust and non-profit Conservation partners to help in this mission.

Public Safety - Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund (*SB580/HB751*): Inspired by Anne Arundel County's world-renowned Crisis Intervention Team, this legislation creates a grant fund for law enforcement agencies across Maryland to provide Mental Health First Aid and Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support training for officers, thus ensuring they have the tools and training necessary to keep our communities safe.

Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps (*SB327/HB983*): This omnibus legislation makes several critical changes to our wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation policy in Maryland, including: 1) Generating an additional \$6.8M for wildlife conservation through targeted increases in license and stamp fees (supported by the hunting community); 2) Utilizing that increased funding to expand DNR's Wildlife Conservation, Education, and Outreach program; and, 3) Requiring DNR and the Department of Agriculture to develop better management tools to address the overpopulation of deer.

Sediment Control Plans, Discharge Permits for Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity, and Notice and Comment Requirements (*SB471/HB607*): Stormwater and sediment runoff continues to be a key impediment to meeting our Bay Restoration Goals. This legislation will require the Department of the Environment to update its Erosion and Sediment Control Manual to ensure we have best practices in place to mitigate runoff, all while expanding public comment on General Discharge Permits so we can better allow feedback in our most critically important natural areas.

Buy Clean Maryland Act (*SB424/HB592*): The emissions produced through cement construction represent about 8% of global carbon dioxide emissions. When signed into law, the Buy Clean Maryland Act will utilize our State's procurement system to incentivize Environmental Product Declarations so we can better procure concrete that has a low global warming potential and is created using cleaner methods, thus reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Task Force to Study Solar Incentives (*SB469*): We should all be proud that Maryland has set rigorous clean energy goals – but we have not fully developed a strategy around solar array deployment and how to best incentivize rooftop and community solar. This legislation will create a task force with industry and governmental experts to advise the General Assembly on how to best meet our clean energy goals in ways that do not threaten forests and prime agricultural land.

State Government - Regulation Procedures and the Maryland Register (*SB649/HB817*): Through my previous service as Chair of the AELR Committee, it became clear that the State's Regulatory Process is not transparent and leaves room for misalignment between government branches. This legislation will increase transparency and also allow the legislature to have greater oversight over the actions taken by the Executive Branch.

State Retirement System - Surviving Spouse Benefit - Same-Sex Spouses (*SB454/HB601*): A decade after the legalization of same-sex marriage, our State never corrected the inequitable surviving spouse benefits for those married before legalization. This legislation does just that by creating a process in which those married before the legalization of same-sex marriage can get the benefits they are entitled to.

Maryland Historic Trust - Historic Preservation Loan Fund - Qualified Cooperating Nonprofit Organizations -Transfer (*SB425/HB674*): This legislation will help get preservation dollars out the door faster by authorizing the Maryland Historic Trust to transfer money from the Historic Preservation Loan Fund to a qualifying non-profit who can be better suited to quickly deploy funding for the dual purpose of preservation and economic impact.

City of Annapolis - Alcoholic Beverages - Art Establishment (*SB472/HB520*): Creates an "Arts Establishment" beer and wine license for our non-profit arts organizations in the City – this will prevent such organizations from having to spend thousands of dollars and a tremendous amount of time applying for dozens of single day licenses.

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Adoption Expenses - Alterations (*SB141/HB180*): This legislation will increase the income tax subtraction modification for families that adopt.

University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Student Member Grant (*SB142/HB428*): After a substantial donation to the University System of Maryland, this legislation will simply allow for the use of private donations to provide a grant to the Student Member of the Board.

Maryland State Arts Council - Funding *(SB167)*: Clarifies the funding formula for the State Arts Council, ensuring significant and continued State investment in Maryland's vibrant Arts community.

Maryland's Balanced Budget

As a member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, one of my biggest responsibilities during the legislative session is to ensure that we pass a balanced and responsible budget that reflects Maryland's values and priorities. Despite federal funding from the COVID-19 pandemic lessening and lower revenue projections from the Board of Revenue Estimate, we were able to make responsible investments to benefit our State's residents and economy. We ultimately enacted a **\$63.1 billion budget** (HB200 and HB202) that invests heavily in Maryland values, including:

- \$8.7B for Maryland public pre-k to 12 schools, an increase of 9.1%, in addition to another \$900 million as a downpayment on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;
- \$14B in Medicaid funding to provide healthcare coverage to 1.5 million residents;
- \$250M to combat the climate crisis, including \$160M to support State parks and forests, \$60M for Chesapeake Bay restoration, \$15M for tree planting, and \$15M for projects under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022;
- \$200M available for new mass transit and transportation infrastructure throughout the State to allow flexibility should Maryland be awarded competitive federal grants;
- \$200M for tax relief for Maryland's veterans, seniors, and working families;
- \$86M in public safety and victim services enhancements, including an additional \$46M above the statutorily required amount to fund police aid and to \$40M in increases to support domestic violence victims and rape crisis centers; and
- \$2.85B in cash reserves, including \$2.5B in the Rainy Day Fund and over \$350M in the General Fund, with ongoing general fund revenues projected to exceed ongoing expenditures by over \$150M in FY24.

Additionally, being a member of the Budget and Taxation Committee gave me the opportunity to secure funding for several District 30 priorities in the State's Operating Budget, including:

- \$11,500,00 to maintain level funding for the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- \$1,500,000 to purchase the Lothian Grain Elevator to support South County agriculture.
- \$1,150,000 to Anne Arundel County to further support the Parole Transportation Center.
- \$1,074,100 to Historic Annapolis for their continued preservation efforts.
- \$879,450 to the City of Annapolis for the State's annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes.
- \$500,000 to operate the YWCA safe house for youth survivors of human trafficking.
- \$225,000 to DNR for a Blue Crab Stock Assessment.

This session was my first session to serve as Chair of the Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation, and the Environment (PSTE) – where we more closely analyzed a third of the State Budget. Our PSTE subcommittee took deliberate action to address a multitude of issues that affect the entirety of the State and District 30, including:

- Holding a briefing on **resiliency efforts across State agencies** to further ensure Maryland is adequately prepared for the looming effects of climate change.
- Ensuring that State Police are appropriately collecting and reporting **Uniform Crime Reports** from the differing Police Departments from across Maryland.
- Finding a path forward for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services while we work in partnership with the Governor's office to rectify this troubled agency.
- Working with the varying Departments to **rebuild staffing levels** to adequately meet the needs of Marylanders most notably in the Department of Corrections, Public Safety, and the Department of the Environment.
- For our veterans ensuring additional oversight of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home while also creating better pathways to jobs for those who have served.
- Ensuring **better training for Medivac Dispatchers** to further protect Marylanders and our State Police Helicopter Pilots.

I was also proud to be reappointed to the Capital Budget Subcommittee - where we worked with Governor Moore to invest just under \$7 billion in capital funds to directly support economic development by investing directly in

our State's infrastructure and communities. I am proud to report that <u>almost \$30 million in capital funding</u> and projects will have a direct impact on District 30, including:

Anne Arundel County Joint 911 Center (10M) Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park (\$5M) Historic Annapolis (\$3M) Annapolis City Dock Flood Mitigation (\$3M in FY25) Southern High School Turf Field (\$2.2M) Ralph J. Bunche Community Center (\$1M) Woodland Beach Volunteer Fire Department (\$1M) South Shore Park *(formally Crownesville)* (\$1M) Anne Arundel County Trails (\$1M) AAMC Adult Behavioral Health Suite (\$863k) AACC Florestano Building (\$720k) Hospice of the Chesapeake - (\$500k) Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Campus (\$250k)

Charles "Hoppy" Adams Jr. House Restoration (\$145k) Anne Arundel County Fair Grounds (\$152k) Stanton Community Center Renovations (\$100k) William Paca Garden Accessibility (\$100k) The Bernie House (\$100k) Peerless Rens (\$75k) Naval Academy Primary School (\$75k) Annapolis Dragon Boat Foundation (\$55k) Elks Camp Barrett (\$50k) Chesapeake Bay Foundation (\$50k) Eastport Veterans Park (\$30k) HoopBus (\$25k)

Major Legislation

Outside of legislation I sponsored and our balanced budget, we also worked to pass legislation to address some of the most important issues facing Marylanders and Maryland families. Here is an overview of some of those key legislative efforts:

Enshrining and Expanding Reproductive Freedom: The recent U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning decades of law protecting abortion access has been devastating. As dozens of states around the country have moved to restrict what was previously a fundamental right, Maryland has stepped up to fill the void for individuals seeking care in our State. Here in Maryland, the right to bodily autonomy will never be diminished. The MGA built on the Abortion Care Access Act passed in the 2022 Legislative Session with a series of four bills that protect reproductive freedom without political interference. These measures enshrine the right to reproductive freedom in the Maryland Constitution (SB798/HB705), increase access to care on college campuses (SB341/HB477), and protect Maryland patients and providers from out-of-state investigations (SB786/HB812 and SB859/HB808).

Enhancing Public Security through Gun Safety: As the increasing number of mass shootings in Maryland and throughout the United States demonstrates, addressing senseless gun violence is one of the most urgent issues we face. Despite the immediate need to tackle gun violence, the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision moves our nation and our State in the wrong direction by making it harder for states to set guardrails around concealed carry permits. As a result, we are witnessing more guns in public sensitive spaces like grocery stores, places of worship, and nursing homes. Objectively, when more

More guns lead to more gun violence and more gun-related injuries. That's why the MGA passed a number of bills prohibiting individuals from carrying in public sensitive locations firearms (SB1): strengthening standards for obtaining a concealed carry permit and penalties for those illegally possessing firearms from three to five years (HB824); ensuring gun owners properly store firearms unloaded and away from children (SB858); and enabling the Maryland State Police Gun Center to track firearms surrendered under peace orders (SB185/HB3). The Senate also passed a bill to make the trafficking of firearms and the theft of firearms a felony - but, unfortunately, the legislation did not pass the House in time. Supporting Maryland's Veterans and National Guard: Maryland's men and women who have served our

guns are procured legally, more guns are also lost or

stolen and eventually found to be used in violent crime.

Maryland's men and women who have served our country with honor and distinction, or are still doing so through our National Guard, deserve recognition for that sacrifice. The Maryland General Assembly took a number of steps to ensure veterans stay and invest in Maryland after their service, including increasing the amount of military retirement income that is tax exempt for State purposes (SB553/HB554) and establishing an income tax checkoff for voluntary contributions to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (SB354/HB316). Further, we put safeguards in place to remediate the issues currently facing the State-owned Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (SB974). Finally, the legislature passed the Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023 to award monthly grants to subsidize health insurance for Maryland National Guard members and ensure they can continue serving safely (SB554/HB553).

Expanding Opportunity for Working Families: Maryland's working families continue to bear the brunt of inflationary pressures and a slowing economy. Although federal funding and the temporary expansion of benefit programs to support vulnerable Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic are ending, Maryland is stepping in to alleviate the burden that these families and individuals face. A livable, family-sustaining wage is foundational to reducing the impacts of poverty. That is why the MGA set our State on the path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage in 2019 and expedited its statewide implementation to January 1, 2024 this Session (SB555/HB549). In addition, the MGA made the expansion of Maryland's Earned Income and Child Tax Credits permanent (SB552/HB547), understanding that equitable tax relief will help to eliminate childhood poverty in our State. Finally, access to banking and capital is vital for generational wealth building. The Access to Banking Act will alleviate bank desserts in low- to moderate-income communities throughout the State (SB550/HB548).

Developing a National Model for an Equitable **Recreational Cannabis Market:** After Maryland voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to legalize adult-use recreational cannabis last November, the Maryland General Assembly began working hard to craft legislation to set up an equitable framework for regulation, licensing, and taxation of adult-use recreational cannabis. The legislative framework passed reflects a commitment to repair the injustices to communities caused by the failed war on drugs and set a national model for implementation of a legal market, learning from other states' policies that have undertaken similar initiatives (SB516/HB556). It ensures that small cannabis businesses are supported by being eligible to apply for a license without needing a brick and mortar facility, while lowering application costs and reserving licenses for individuals who live in disproportionately impacted areas of the State. The legislation also unifies the regulations for cannabis so regardless of whether an individual is using cannabis recreationally or medically, it will be regulated in the same fashion. Finally, the bill sets aside millions of dollars for the communities most harmed by the failed war on drugs.

Strengthening Maryland's Paid Medical and Family Leave System: Paid family and medical leave is imperative to the wellbeing of Maryland families and workers. Access to paid family and medical leave ensures that Maryland families have adequate resources to support a new child or other loved one who requires care. Marylanders should not have to choose between being with a parent during their last days and putting food on the table, which is why we passed the Time to Care Act last Session, establishing a system for paid medical and family leave for our State's residents. The fiscal sustainability of that program is imperative for it to be effective at supporting Marylanders, which is why we strengthened its funding mechanism in a way that is affordable for employees and employers (SB828).

Improving and Modernizing Behavioral Healthcare in <u>Maryland:</u> The COVID-19 pandemic led to an undeniable and acute behavioral health crisis in Maryland and throughout the entire country. An increased sense of isolation and disruptions to healthcare services have put a strain on the entire healthcare system, but nowhere has that been more evident than in Marylanders seeking behavioral care. Going into the 2023 Legislative Session, one of our top priorities was to pass policies that accomplished the dual objectives of improving access to care and modernizing the system of delivery. The Senate advanced a bipartisan behavioral healthcare package, including:

- Fully funding the 9-8-8 crisis hotline with \$12M per year (SB3/HB271);
- Extending collaborative care between primary and behavioral healthcare providers (SB101/HB48);
- Expanding wraparound services for children and youth most at-risk (SB255/HB322);
- Creating systems for comprehensive community behavioral health clinics (SB362);
- Preserving affordable access to telehealth services (SB534);
- Allowing for creative healthcare for Maryland's highest-need patients (SB581); and
- Planning for a 21st century behavioral care delivery system (SB582/HB1148).

Delivering Prompt and **Secure Election Results:** As states around the country continue moving to restrict the ability for voters to cast their ballots, Maryland remains focused on making it easier for all eligible voters to have voices heard. Mail-in voting widely has been adopted in recent elections and we made sure that voters who forget to sign their mail-in ballot have the opportunity to fix, or "cure," the ballot in time for their votes to be counted. In addition, we specified that mail-in ballots must be sent to voters 43 days prior to Election Day to avoid uncertainty around ballots potentially not arriving in time and voters

needing to cast provisional ballots as a result. Finally, we are avoiding unnecessary delays in election results being reported by allowing local boards of elections to begin processing mail-in ballots ahead of Election Day (SB379/HB535).

Developing a 21st Century Workforce: Meeting the demands of a 21st century economy means developing alternative pathways to our State's workforce. Our economic future depends on Maryland employers' ability to build a dependable and skilled labor force. The Senate firmly believes that one of the most robust opportunities for workforce development is through scaling up registered apprenticeship options, both for individuals after graduation from high school and those currently disconnected from work. Apprenticeships allow individuals to earn a living wage while they learn their necessary skills for the job. The Maryland General Assembly is creating the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission, which will determine strategies to grow our current number of apprenticeships from 12,000 a year to 60,000 by 2030 (SB104).

Prioritizing Public Service: The fabric of our civic society has been fraying for years because we tend to silo ourselves in like-minded communities with others of similar backgrounds. Democracies thrive when a marketplace of ideas exists, and individuals communicate and work together across differences. Service is a powerful tool for bringing people together with a shared purpose and vision for what's possible. The Maryland General Assembly worked with Governor Moore to shape the new Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation and establish two service year option pathways under the Maryland Corps program (SB551/HB546). This legislation will ensure every Marylander interested in serving our community has the ability to do so.

Demanding Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse: Fundamentally, there must be due process and justice for children and youth who were victims of the heinous crime of sexual abuse. To address these harms, ensure the survivors of these horrific crimes may be given the opportunity to seek restitution, and prevent the very organizational and cultural breakdowns that led to decades of coverups, we passed the Child Victims Act (SB686/HB1). The bill removes the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse civil lawsuits and allows victims previously obstructed from seeking justice access to reparations. Further, the legislation will create more avenues for justice in cases that deal with some of the most painful experiences an individual can ever endure as a child. The passage and enactment of the Child Victims Act has been years in the making.

Reestablishing Maryland as a Leader on Offshore *Wind:* Offshore wind is a vital component of a diverse renewable energy generation portfolio that will create grid resilience and lead to lower energy prices for ratepayers. The benefits of offshore wind go far beyond greenhouse gas reductions and include economic benefits ranging from job creation to manufacturing investments. The Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act that passed the General Assembly this Session has the potential to spur billions of dollars of investment in the emerging green economy, thereby creating thousands of family-sustaining jobs, and establishing Maryland as an economic hub for the entire East Coast (SB781). The legislation sets an ambitious new target of 8.5 gigawatts of energy for offshore wind generation, analyzes economically efficient transmission planning to get that energy onto land, and establishes a novel procurement process that benefits Marylanders.

Lowering Energy Costs for Marylanders: Energy costs are continuing to rise globally and in Maryland due to inflationary pressures and the war in Ukraine. One of the most effective mechanisms for lowering the amount that Marylanders spend on monthly energy bills, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is through energy efficiency improvements. It is imperative that those benefits go to those who can least afford to make those improvements on their own. That is why the legislature mandated that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development provide energy efficiency improvements for low-income housing throughout the State (SB144/HB169). We also made the existing community solar pilot program permanent, with a requirement that 40% of participants be low- or middle-income Marylanders and specified that participation in the program must be a net benefit to the subscriber (SB613/HB908). Finally, the General Assembly passed the Net Metering Flexibility Act to allow customers generating excess energy to accrue the benefits of that energy for an indefinite period of time.

Protecting Maryland's Environment for Future Generations: One of the most critical responsibilities facing the legislature each year is to ensure the stewardship of Maryland's natural resources for generations to come. A number of critical conservation programs have lingered without update for decades, which we addressed this Session through two bills. First, we passed my legislation to meaningfully update Maryland's Forest Conservation Act (FCA) for the first time since 1991 in order to achieve a "no-net-loss" of forest standard while giving local jurisdictions much-needed flexibility to align forest conservation needs with local land use priorities (SB526/HB723). Second, we tapped into available federal funding for conservation efforts that we had previously been unable to access by modestly raising fees for hunting licenses for the first time in over three decades (SB327/HB983). Additionally, the General Assembly took the first steps to ensure that industry is a genuine stakeholder in recycling programs and mitigate the costs passed on to local governments by establishing a producer responsibility program for packaging materials (SB222).

Transforming Our State's Transportation Sector: One of the most important issues of this four-year term will be transforming Maryland's transportation sector and infrastructure to meet 21st century needs. Car manufacturers are ramping up the production of electric vehicles over the next decade and it is critical that we build out a system of incentives and charging infrastructure to meet that increasing demand. The General Assembly passed legislation to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck Rule to reduce emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, provide incentives to mitigate the cost of those zero emission trucks, and increase funding for the electric vehicle recharging equipment rebate program (SB224/HB230 and HB550). Further, we required that newly constructed homes or those undergoing significant renovations include electric vehicle charging capability (SB477/HB830). Finally, as Marylanders minimize their reliance on gasoline, we recognize that the State must have a long-term discussion to maintain transportation infrastructure funding that is currently provided through a tax on motor fuel. The legislature is planning for a 21st century transportation sector by creating the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs, which will guide our work to stabilize funding for critical transit infrastructure as vehicle electrification increases (SB24/HB51).

Evaluating Governance of Baltimore Regional Water Governance: The ongoing issues at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant demonstrate the urgency in creating a more collaborative and comprehensive approach to our water utility system. The staffing issues at Back River and similar treatment facilities impacts customers throughout the entire Greater Baltimore Region, including Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Howard, and Harford Counties. It is long past time to reevaluate its governance structure. Legislation passed this year will create a task force to recommend structural changes to our region's water utility that ensure the safety and affordability for all Marylanders who rely on this critical resource (SB880/HB883).

In Closing - Thank you

The adjourning, *sine die*, of the 2023 legislative session marks the end of the first session of my second term as your Senator. I believe that we have set ourselves up for success over the next three legislative sessions (and for myself with plenty of task forces to participate in and reports to evaluate over the interim!).

Over the interim I will continue to host community events to remain as accessible as possible to you – and it would be my honor to join you at any community event, HOA, or PTA meeting in your community. In addition to this community work and constituent services, I will also spend time as a member of the tri-State Chesapeake Bay Commission, and as Chair of both the Joint Committee on Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area and the Joint Subcommittee on Program Open Space and Agricultural Land Preservation.

Thank you for the privilege of representing you in the Maryland Senate, it remains the honor of my life. If I or my staff can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out by calling the office at 410-841-3578 or by sending an email to sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Sarch Ellnech

Sarah Elfreth Senator, District 30