



CONGRESSMAN
JOHN SARBANES
 REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Sarbanes Working for Baltimore City

Economic Development:

- **Helping Small Businesses Access Capital**— On July 12th, I hosted a small business lending fair along with the BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) and the Maryland Bankers Association—connecting small businesses in our region with community lenders, national banks and other financial institutions. Just by getting all parties together in one room, I think we can make significant progress in breaking the log jam on access to capital for small business owners.
- **Providing Small Businesses Access to Microlenders**—The microloan program is designed to help mitigate the credit freeze by providing small loans to small businesses. Unfortunately, no community-based microlenders have been established in the Central Maryland region, denying small businesses access to these loans a full twelve months after Congress passed the Recovery Act. In response, I wrote to SBA Administrator Karen Mills asking her to move quickly to establish lenders in our region. My staff is working with SBA and local government officials in Baltimore to establish a non-profit intermediary to get this initiative back on track in Maryland.
- **Connecting Small Business Owners to the Federal Regulators**—I joined officials from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in a small business roundtable discussion in Baltimore City. This event brought together small business owners, lenders and regulators to discuss issues impacting access to credit and technical support for Maryland small businesses. Emerging themes, best practices and common challenges will be presented at a national Federal Reserve Board of Governors event to elicit concrete actions that can be taken by the Board, national policymakers, federal agencies and other stakeholders to help small businesses.
- **Helping Local Businesses Access Federal Funding**—Ellicott Dredges is a manufacturing company that specializes in dredging equipment and has operated in Baltimore for over one hundred years. I helped them secure a Recovery Act Small Shipyard Grant that has enabled Ellicott Dredges to create or retain 25 good-paying jobs in Baltimore. It's important to fight for every single job because small businesses will take the lead in transforming our economy.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can provide management, training and technical assistance. For more information visit www.mdsbdc.umd.edu or 1-877-421-0830.

Transportation:

- **Investing in the MARC Commuter Rail System**—I am a strong supporter of MARC and, more generally, a robust public transportation system in Maryland. I share the frustration felt by riders with the problems and unpredictability with MARC. In order to make MARC more reliable, I have worked in the Congress to secure \$23 million in additional capital funding to upgrade railcars and parking facilities. The Recovery Act also provided over \$90 million for the MARC system to fund a new public address system and upgrades at the Laurel MARC Station. In this tough budget climate, I will continue to fight for federal resources to help commuter rail systems like MARC.
- **Improving Baltimore's Public Transportation System**—I believe that public transportation offers a cost-effective, safe, and reliable means of travel for many residents of Baltimore. Baltimore currently has buses, light rail and subways that help many move around the City and get to work. Through the Recovery Act funding, the Maryland Transit Administration was able to invest \$27 million in purchasing 16 news buses and upgrading bus facilities in the Baltimore area. The MTA also invested \$17 million in light rail parking expansion and infrastructure upgrades. Finally, the MTA will use \$39 million to install a new public address system, upgrade the tracks as well as make repairs to bridges and tunnels along the Baltimore subway.

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Chesapeake Bay:

- **Engaging Individual Citizens in Restoring the Bay**—I recently introduced the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2011 (H.R. 1651), legislation that would help the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. The legislation directs the EPA to develop a “Save the Bay Home” designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, examples of which could include installing rain barrels or reducing fertilizer on lawns, that home could be designated a “Save the Bay Home.” The bill further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the “Save the Bay Home” designation. I will continue to advocate for programs that engage individual citizens in the restoration of the Bay.
- **Supporting the Science and Environmental Education of Bay Restoration**—I introduced the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2011, which reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office. This legislation strengthens the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program which is a competitive grant program that supports existing environmental education initiatives, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education groups throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. In addition, the legislation will also assist watermen on the Chesapeake by expanding technical assistance that NOAA offers beyond native oyster populations to include fish and shellfish aquaculture. Finally the legislation will improve the Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy system, which is a system of buoys that reports real-time weather and environmental information such as wind speed, temperature, and wave height. To access the real-time information please visit www.buoybay.org.
- **Giving People Access to the Chesapeake Bay**—I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. The program has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Gateway sites in Baltimore City include the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the Gwynns Falls Trail and Greenway, the Fells Point Historic District, the Pride of Baltimore II and USS Constellation.

To learn more about how you can become involved in restoring the Chesapeake Bay please visit www.chesapeakebay.net.

Workforce Development:

- **Helping Individuals Transition Back into the Workforce**—The Mayor’s Office of Employment Development provides vital support and training to those who are trying to get back into the workforce. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided over \$6.1 million to support the 3 One-Stop Career Centers in Baltimore City. Through the One-Stop Career Centers, the City provides assistance to those looking for jobs including individual placement assistance, resume review, interviewing techniques, computer and other technical skills training. This funding also ensured that 6,000 young people had summer jobs which gives them valuable job training and skills to be successful in the workforce. I also worked with the Maryland Congressional Delegation to secure \$1 million to fund the Green Jobs Youth Corp which allowed 350 young people to learn green job skills including horticulture, wildlife management, urban forestry, historic preservation and invasive plant remediation.
- **Training Workers for Green Jobs**—Through a Recovery Act grant, Maryland received more than \$5 million to train 1,500 individuals and place them in energy-efficient employment in four different green industries. The project was implemented through a regional partnership with businesses, community colleges, labor apprenticeship programs and the One-Stop Workforce System. The project also improved manufacturing sustainability practices and waste stream management, develop and expand green construction training options and assist workers as they pursue careers. Participants earned certificates or degrees in waste stream management, environmental technology, renewable energy or green construction. The program will save Marylanders more than \$370 million in energy costs.
- **Helping the Unemployed**—Everyday I hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet during these difficult economic times. For this reason, I supported legislation that has extended unemployment benefits and the COBRA health insurance subsidy for unemployed workers through December 31, 2011.