



CONGRESSMAN
JOHN SARBANES
 REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Sarbanes Working for Howard County

Economic Development:

- **Enhance Broadband Access to Businesses and Community Institutions**—I worked with other members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and Howard County to secure \$115 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to deploy the OneMaryland Broadband Network. This program will bring affordable and abundant broadband to each of Maryland's 24 counties, including Howard County. Broadband, digital communications and other information technology are important tools to encourage economic development, social advancement and job growth in Maryland. For every dollar invested in broadband, it is estimated that the economy sees a ten-fold return on that investment.
- **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.
- **Bringing Workers and Jobs to Fort George G. Meade**—This year, BRAC will bring a total of 7,500 jobs to Fort Meade along with the Defense Information System Agency (DISA), the Defense Media Activity (DMA) and the Defense/Military Adjudication Activities. Some of these workers have already moved into new facilities at Fort Meade. This BRAC growth is occurring in addition to expansion of current intelligence agencies and the arrival of Cyber Command at Fort Meade. A 2010 report estimated that Fort Meade currently provides over \$17 billion in economic impact to Maryland, and that is only expected to grow. Fort Meade will continue to drive economic growth in the region, including in Howard County.

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 Howard County Public Transportation**—I believe that public transportation offers a cost-effective, safe, and reliable means of travel for many residents of Howard County, especially as the influx of workers begin to come to Fort Meade and the surrounding community. Working in Congress, I have secured over \$1 million to help construct the Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility. This facility will help provide residents of Howard County more access to public transportation options as they commute to work. In addition, the Recovery Act provided over \$2.5 million to Howard County to buy three new hybrid buses and upgrade existing bus facilities. I remain committed to fighting for federal funds to support public transportation in Howard County.

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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 Howard County include the Patapsco Valley State Park.

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 Howard County Office of Workforce Development provides vital support and training to those who are trying to get back into the workforce. The Recovery Act provided over \$580,000 to support one-stop career counseling at the Columbia Workforce Center in Howard County. This center provides assistance to those looking for jobs including individual placement assistance, resume review, interviewing techniques, computer and other technical skills training.
- **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.