



March 12, 2013

Dear Friend,

Sometimes our work during the 90-day Annapolis session leads to solutions that don't require passage of a bill.

A good example of that is what happened last month with sustainable agriculture. Reducing fertilizer and sediment runoff from farming is an important way to reduce Chesapeake Bay pollution, and Maryland has made great strides in this area in recent years.

At the request of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Future Harvest-Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, I introduced a bill ([House Bill 400](#)) that would have provided incentives for a sustainable form of grazing, known as management-intensive grazing. The bill's introduction led to discussion with the Agriculture Department about ways to implement the bill administratively. In February, Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance announced that he was including pasture and grazing infrastructure as a best management practice for natural resource conservation, and I withdrew my bill.

As this poster says, sustainable grazing is a win for farmers and for clean water:



FUTURE HARVEST

A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure



FARMERS APPLAUD SECRETARY HANCE, SENATOR YOUNG AND DELEGATE STEIN FOR CREATING NEW COST-SHARE PROVISION FOR GRAZING

Future Harvest-Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (CASA), along with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Maryland Grazers' Network, applauds Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance's recent decision to include establishment of pasture and grazing infrastructure as a best management practice for natural resource conservation. We also thank Senator Ron Young and Delegate Dana Stein for sponsoring the initial legislation that led to Secretary Hance's decision. Sustainable grazing is a win for farmers and for clean water.

Future Harvest - A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (Future Harvest CASA) is a nonprofit organization representing a regional network of farmers, agricultural professionals, landowners and consumers living and working in the Chesapeake region. Future Harvest CASA promotes profitable, environmentally sound and socially acceptable food and farming systems that work to sustain communities.

In another area, financial education and transparency, my [House Bill 557](#) has helped prompt discussion about ways to assist students in understanding college costs and managing student loan debt. HB 557 requires use of a [“financial aid shopping sheet”](#) that would improve the transparency of college costs and student loans. The bill has been approved by the House of Delegates and is being considered by the Senate. Discussions on the importance of counseling college students on financial issues will continue after this year's session, most likely by the Commission on Improving Financial Education and Capability, which I co-chair.

Lastly, in the fight against human trafficking there was progress of another sort. The Maryland legislature has passed legislation in recent years to combat human trafficking and assist victims. Last year I sponsored [House Bill 860](#), which amended the definition of “sexual abuse” in State law to specifically include human trafficking, child pornography, and prostitution of a child. The change in classification allows child victims to be brought within the existing protections and services of the Department of Human Resources, such as child protective services.

Because of my work on this issue, I was invited by the Polaris Project to participate in a press conference last month at which Clear Channel unveiled one of a series of digital billboards promoting the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline. These billboards will help alert victims and witnesses to human trafficking about this important resource. Below is a photo of the press conference, at which Attorney General Doug Gansler, Clear Channel Outdoor President Steve Ginsburg, Polaris Project Deputy Director Karen Galatz, and I spoke.



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I am proud to be representing you in Annapolis and to be a part of the District 11 legislative team, which includes Senator Bobby Zirkin and Delegates Jon Cardin and Dan Morhaim. Please contact me at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Dana Stein
Delegate



Paid for by Friends of Dana Stein, Charles Spira, Treasurer

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HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE 304, 6 BLADEN STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
DANA@DANASTEIN.COM
(410) 841-3527 PHONE | (410) 841-3379 FAX

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Delegate Dana M. Stein
House Office Building, Suite 304
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
US

