

**March 13, 2009**

### **Haddaway Donates Books to Local Schools**

It is an annual tradition for the Cat in the Hat to visit the Maryland General Assembly to promote literacy across America. During his visit, the Cat in the Hat also collects books from members of the General Assembly which go to local schools. Since becoming a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio has donated over fifty books to Mid-Shore schools through this program. "I have always loved reading and I am grateful to my parents for encouraging me to read," Haddaway said. "In the same spirit, I hope that the books I have donated will inspire students in our local schools. I really believe that literacy is a critical part of succeeding in life."

### **Hunting Legislation**

Delegate Barbara Frush (D – Prince George's County) introduced legislation that would extend the hunter safety zone from 150 to 300 yards. Many hunters have expressed concerns that it will prevent them from being able to hunt and point to the fact that Maryland recently expanded the hunter safety zone from 100 to 150 yards. A hearing will be held in the Environment Matters Committee on March 18, 2009 at 1pm.

### **Biofuel and Biomass Incentives**

Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and other members of the Economic Matters Committee held a hearing on a bill that would offer Maryland incentives for biomass and biofuel production. The bill includes a net metering component for energy generated from cellulosic feedstock, but also a more controversial measure that sets enhanced content requirements for diesel and gasoline in the State of Maryland. This provision is controversial because it could raise costs for government and the private sector at a time when they are already experiencing economic hardships. There is also disagreement about whether biofuels negatively affect engine parts and cause operating difficulties during extreme outdoor temperatures.

Committee members heard testimony from a variety of stakeholders including the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Maryland Motor Truck Association and two Maryland biofuel companies – New Generation Biofuels and Greenlight Biofuels of Princess Anne, Maryland.

Haddaway serves on the Public Utilities Subcommittee, which will likely take up the bill in the next few weeks.

## **Unemployment Insurance**

A hearing was also held in the House Economic Matters Committee this week on two bills that would affect Unemployment Insurance in Maryland.

- House Bill 740 would increase the maximum allowed weekly benefit amount from \$380 to \$410 for new claims filed after October 4, 2009. For claims filed after October 3, 2010, the maximum weekly benefit is then increased from \$410 to \$430.
- HB1199 would allow a claim for unemployment insurance benefits to be backdated up six weeks prior to the event. Under current Maryland Regulations, a claim can only be backdated up to 30 days under certain circumstances such as severe weather prohibiting a person from getting to the office where they need to apply.

## **Coming Up Next Week in the Economic Matters Committee**

- Interior Designers - Licensing
- Family Medical Leave Act
- No Interest Loan Program for Military Personnel and Service-Disabled Veterans
- Real Estate Appraisers – Record Keeping
- Electricians, Gas Fitters, HVAC Contractors and Plumbers – Display of Licenses and License Numbers

*For more information on this and other issues, please feel free to contact Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio's office by calling (410) 841-3429 or by emailing [jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us](mailto:jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us).*