

Dear State Employees and Retirees:

As the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, I am reminded daily of our connection to the natural world. The air we breathe, the water we drink, our forests, rivers and Chesapeake Bay — all are part of the great ecosystem within which we live. And in this system, we human beings are all connected to each other.

This year it is my privilege to serve as Assistant Chairperson of the 2011 Maryland Charity Campaign for State Employees and Retirees. The Campaign gives us the opportunity to recognize, to embrace and to renew our connections to tens of thousands of our fellow Marylanders by providing critical support to charities that offer vital services. Last year, despite the economic downturn and through your generosity, we raised \$3.4 million for this effort. This year, with furloughs in the past and an eye toward the future, we hope to increase our giving — and in so doing give hope to more people who are in need.

“We are all connected.” This is the theme of this year’s campaign. It reminds us that we can make a real difference in the lives of people in our communities.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Charity Campaign, thank you for your support.

John R. Griffin
Secretary