



May 14, 2003

ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.  
GOVERNOR

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Dear Eastern Shore Business Leader:

From the Bay to the Beach, the Eastern Shore has much to offer. However, in traveling around the Shore, I repeatedly hear from business people about the need for affordable broadband Internet connectivity. I recognize the importance of this vital infrastructure to the future of the Shore's economy. My Administration is committed to working with local officials to solve this issue, but we need your help to do it.

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Officials from all nine Eastern Shore counties, along with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore and the Mid-Shore Regional Council, have launched a new initiative. As part of this effort, TLA Associates is conducting a comprehensive feasibility study that will include implementation options for bringing much-needed broadband communications access to the Shore's business community.

Enclosed you will find a survey that is a vital first step in collecting the information necessary to make the case for improved service to the Shore. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and return it using the postage paid return envelope. **All the information you provide will be held in strictest confidence.** Neither you nor your organization will be identified in any reports or publications. The surveys must be returned by June 13 in order to be included in the data analysis.

If you have any questions, please visit the Eastern Maryland Broadband Infrastructure project website at [www.marylandtedco.org/EasternMD.htm](http://www.marylandtedco.org/EasternMD.htm) for a complete overview of project goals and objectives. You also can e-mail the survey team at [survey2@marylandtedco.org](mailto:survey2@marylandtedco.org). If necessary, you may contact Mike Pennington, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore, at 410-632-4700.

The information you provide is essential in developing a workable plan for the entire Eastern Shore. I urge you to please take the time to fill out the survey. My Administration is committed to providing the tools the Eastern Shore needs to succeed. This study is an important step in that direction. Thank you for your time, and by working together, we can make the Eastern Shore an even better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor