



SENATOR J.B. JENNINGS

October 6, 2020

My Fellow Republican Senators,

Six years ago, I was given the tremendous honor of leading the Senate Republican Caucus. When I ran for the position, I made a pledge to be fair, honest and forthright while serving at the helm of a dynamic group of individuals whose mission has always been to help the great State of Maryland live up to its fullest potential. Every decision I have made as Senate Minority Leader has served the best interests of you, our members, and above all, our constituents.

Over the years, we have celebrated many victories in the Senate. We have worked together to amend bills to strip them of their worst components, and we have defeated a lot of reckless and irresponsible pieces of legislation that did not serve the best interests of this State. Above all, despite the fact that we sit in the minority, we have made a major impact on legislation that affects the everyday lives of Marylanders. We have personified the word teamwork, and I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished together on the floor of the Senate. We may not have won every battle, but there is no doubt, we always won the debate.

In the election prior to my leadership, our Caucus raised a total of \$45,000 to spend on the Senate challenger races. Four years later, we set a goal to grow our Caucus, but we needed great candidates and the fundraising to achieve it. Together, we developed a plan and executed it by recruiting strong candidates, and by fulfilling a very robust fundraising effort that allowed all of our Caucus members to participate and recruit their supporters on local and regional levels. The Senate Republican Caucus Committee (SRCC) had over \$800,000 flow through its checking account as a result of this effort, and a reserve of \$41,000 remains in the SRCC checking account today. I proudly donated \$100,000 of my personal campaign funds to the SRCC and to my fellow Caucus members as part of this effort. In the end, despite the House of Delegates losing seats, in 2018 we turned two of the blue seats that we targeted over to red. *In fact, we are the only legislative chamber in the Northeast that actually gained a seat in that election.*

As you know, this position required a lot of administrative work in addition to fulfilling my duties as a legislator. From personnel issues to committee assignments, I have done my best to work with the Senate President to grant each members' requests. To that end, I have tried to make every decision in a way that is fair to all members. I am especially proud to have fulfilled our long-awaited request to physically unify our team by having all of our offices moved to the James Building.

None of the many important accomplishments and legislative successes we have achieved would have been possible without our tremendous work as a team. I want to thank each of you for your camaraderie, hard work and dedication. Hosting the annual hospitality reception at MML and MACo in your honor and taking you and your spouses to dinner the night before session every year have been personal highlights for me. I'd like to thank my seatmate, Senator Hershey, who has been an incredible leadership partner and friend. He has given countless hours and made tremendous sacrifices to ensure that all of our needs have been met, while tirelessly representing the best interests of his district. I believe that he is a major component to many of our most notable achievements. Together, we are the longest serving leadership in the Caucus' history.

After six years of serving this Caucus as its Leader, I am incredibly proud of the work we have done to support our party, our members, our constituents and the people of Maryland. We have accomplished a great deal, and I believe now is the time to allow a new team to build on this success and lead our Caucus into the 2022 election season. Therefore, I will not seek re-election as leader of the Republican Senate Caucus this year.

As I step aside and let someone else take the reins, I assure you that I will work to make it a seamless transition for all of us. At a time when our nation is divided, our Caucus needs to be more united than ever. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead of us, and I will forever cherish the memories and accomplishments that we have created together under my leadership. I look forward to working with our new leader, and with all of you, to continue our pursuit for a better tomorrow for our fellow Marylanders. May we never forget the tremendous honor that has been bestowed upon us as public servants, and the vows we took to represent our constituents to the very best of our abilities.

Once again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me these last six years. It has been an honor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.B. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Senator J.B. Jennings