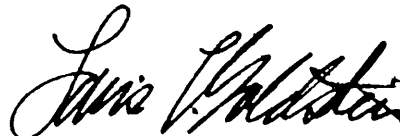


The preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on a timely basis could not have been accomplished without the efforts and dedication of the staff of the General Accounting Division with assistance from other personnel from the various departments and agencies of the State.

I will be pleased to furnish additional information on the State's finances upon request.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis L. Goldstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louis L. Goldstein
Comptroller of the Treasury
of Maryland