

Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations"; such information being contained in other reports.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the State of Maryland for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. State of Maryland has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last 17 consecutive years (fiscal years ended 1980-1996). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

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