

# News Release

## PHOTO RELEASE: Comptroller Brooke Lierman Tours Talbot and Wicomico Counties

*Tour stops focus on entrepreneurship, challenges, and opportunities for  
Maryland's economy*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 29, 2024) — Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman** on Friday continued her statewide Take a Look with Brooke tour, with stops in Talbot and Wicomico Counties. During the tour, Comptroller Lierman highlighted the ongoing partnership between the Office of the Comptroller and local governments, learned more about entrepreneurial ventures in the region, and heard from Marylanders about ways to partner to address economic challenges and opportunities outlined in the agency's [State of the Economy report](#).

Comptroller Lierman provided updates on the Office of the Comptroller's strategic priorities and initiatives during meetings with the members of the Wicomico County and Talbot County Councils, and she highlighted the recent launch of Maryland Tax Connect, a new portal allowing businesses to file taxes online, as well as the agency's public engagement efforts to make Marylanders aware of the resources and services available on the Eastern Shore.



*Comptroller Lierman speaks with Wicomico County Council on April 26, 2024*

In Talbot County, Comptroller Lierman toured the innovative Critchlow Adkins Childcare Centers in Easton, which has five locations in Talbot County and provides preschool, before- and after-school care, as well as summer camps for children ages 2 through 12. Maryland is ranked the eighth costliest state in the nation for childcare. The State of the Economy report found that Maryland experienced a higher rate of women leaving the workforce to fulfill caretaking responsibilities, including caring for young children.



*Comptroller Lierman tours the Critchlow Adkins School Age Site in Easton with Executive Director Cristy Morrell*

Comptroller Lierman referenced her visits to two Critchlow Adkins sites in Easton during her presentation to the Talbot County Council. She stressed the need for more affordable and robust childcare options, as well as the need for partnership at every level of government to address this challenge.

"If we are talking about the economy and we are not talking about childcare, we are missing a big part of the picture," said Comptroller Lierman. "Childcare is a big piece of economic development."



*Comptroller Lierman addresses the Talbot County Council on April 26, 2024*

Comptroller Lierman also focused on business development during her tour. She visited to Two Scoops Ice Cream and Waffles as well as Salisbury University's Dave and Patsy Rommell Entrepreneurship Center in downtown Salisbury for the annual Shore Hatchery Competition.

The Shore Hatchery Competition assists entrepreneurs in creating new businesses and jobs in the region, with a portion of \$200,000 in startup funds, and additional support from the Center.



*Comptroller Lierman examines displays by entrepreneurs during the Shore Hatchery Competition on August 26, 2024.*

Comptroller Lierman also traveled to Tilghman Island Seafood, a processing plant working to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay by harvesting invasive wild blue catfish that threaten the blue crab population in Maryland.



*Comptroller Lierman tours Tilghman Island Seafood with owner, Nick Hargrove on April 26, 2024*

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