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Editor:

In the Aug. 28-Sept. 3 guest notebook, 'Md. comptroller: Solving the state's budget woes needs to be your business,' Washington Business Journal Editor Douglas Fruehling promotes the notion that leaders in Annapolis should be receptive to business community advice on reforming state spending because, among other things, businesses are better at the methodical and analytical approach needed to address the state's budget challenges.

As a former member of the legislature's budget committees, I would suggest that the state budgets are the products of 90 days of methodology and analysis.

The problem is the failure of our elected leaders to ensure budget decisions are made during the 90-day legislative process that incorporate the basic principles and strategies necessary to grow the state's economy and to direct state spending accordingly.

That's most important to those of us who are urging state leaders to replace traditional short-term fiscal tactics with a strategic approach driven by specific long-term priorities and budgets that smartly allocate the state's limited resources to those priorities.

The recession has made it abundantly clear that the state's fiscal condition is directly related to its business climate and economy.

The current fiscal challenges present our elected officials the perfect opportunity to thoroughly examine existing government programs and direct investment to those areas that will enhance our state's competitive position when the country recovers from the recession.

Adjusting current operations and positioning for the future is a business lesson that can serve the state well.

Donald C. Fry CEO *Greater Baltimore Committee*

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