



MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD, 1998 – 2001: GOVERNOR PARRIS N. GLENDENING

OVERALL GRADE	B+
- Smart Growth	A
- Transportation	B
- Land Preservation & Open Space	A
- Fisheries & Wildlife	A
- Energy	B-
- Administration	C+
- Air Quality	A-
- Water Quality	B+
- Extra Credit	+ +

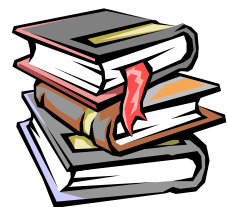
The environment was a key election issue that propelled Governor Glendening to a second term in 1998. In campaign publications, on the stump and in televised ads, Governor Glendening made the environment a central concern. Is this Administration following through on those campaign commitments?

This is the second report card to be released by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters evaluating the environmental progress of the Glendening Administration. Governor Glendening received a 'B' as an overall grade in 1997 based on his first years in office.

While the Governor has won praise for his landmark anti-sprawl initiative Smart Growth, there are many other important decisions being made

regarding our water quality, air pollution, natural resources and public health. The Maryland League recognizes that the Governor, through his decisions and actions, sets the tone for environmental protection in the State. The issues and categories selected are key indicators of commitment to environmental protection and restoration but obviously do not encompass every action.

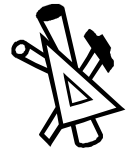
With input from conservation leaders from around the State, the Board of Directors of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters has prepared this assessment of the environmental accomplishments of the Governor. The Maryland League wishes to thank all the organizations and individuals that provided feedback to make this as comprehensive a document as possible.



We Keep Score for the Environment

Smart Growth

Grade: A



Smart Growth has brought the Governor and Maryland national attention and numerous awards. According to the census data, the State's population continues to swell, pitting our valuable farmland, forests and quality of life against sprawl development. Smart Growth is a tool that can help address the future needs of Maryland.

Accomplishments

While the original 1997 legislation is in the process of being implemented, Glendening has continued to seek additional ways to build upon this program. The elevation of the Department of Planning to a full department is key. Also, passing historic tax credits and Smart Codes will help make revitalization of our existing communities easier. In the 2001 session, the Governor successfully pushed for the Community Legacy Program and Office of Smart Growth. Community Legacy will help revitalize neighborhoods while the newly created Office of Smart Growth will provide "one stop shopping" for citizens and developers working toward smart growth. We also applaud the Governor's efforts to fund sidewalks, urban parks and playgrounds making communities more livable.

The environmental community will continue to work with the Governor to build upon Smart Growth efforts to enforce water and sewer planning regulations, develop incentives for economically diverse communities, implement new innovative septic systems, and insist counties adhere to densities described in their priority funding area maps.

Transportation

Grade: B



Transportation is one of the most important, yet complex issues for the State and a significant budget item. The Glendening Administration has hit the books and made steady progress since receiving a 'D' on his 1997 Environmental Report Card.

Accomplishments

In recent years the governor has made a great effort to begin to transform the Department of Transportation from a highway-building agency to a multi-modal agency that emphasizes all modes of transportation such as transit and bicycling. The Governor has rejected the Inter-County Connector, canceled five bypasses, supported double tracking light rail in Baltimore, reduced the farebox recovery rate, and invested in transit-oriented development. In his 2001 budget, the Governor outlined a significant transit initiative. He fought hard to keep the funding intact securing \$500 million over 6 years for additional metro cars and buses, improvements to system efficiencies, neighborhood shuttles and new bus routes and Sunday metro service in Baltimore.

Needs Improvement

While the steps above are to be strongly applauded there is still a very long way to go. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge is a critical transportation link in this region and must include a transit component when it opens, as this is a pivotal link in the proposed purple line for Metro. There are still many highway projects on the books that will contribute to sprawl including the Waldorf bypass and widening of Route 32 in Western Howard County. In the interest of Smart Growth we expect the proposed new crossing of the Potomac River be opposed. In the Baltimore region more work must be done to get the counties to work together to develop a real regional transportation plan.

Land Preservation & Open Space Grade: A



Land preservation has been a cornerstone of the Glendening Administration.

Accomplishments

Over the past several years the Governor has protected key areas in danger of being developed; such as the Chesapeake Forest Products lands, Chapman Forest and Franklin Point. The Governor's Rural Legacy program continues to be a vital program to protect valuable farm and resource lands. In the 2001 General Assembly Governor Glendening successfully fought for funding to support new Green Print program. Green Print will identify and offer protection for our most ecologically sensitive lands before they are threatened by development and connect already protected areas.

Special note: While Maryland has been aggressively preserving land, the region is not keeping up with the pace of development or the goals set in the 2000 Bay Agreement. A report by the Trust for Public Land found this region still needs an additional \$1.8 billion to meet our goals.

Fisheries & Wildlife Grade: A



Once again the Governor has shown leadership in protecting our wildlife and fisheries and maintained a high grade in this category.

Accomplishments

The Governor gets high marks for securing significant funding for oyster restoration at a level of \$25 million over ten years. The Governor continues to be supportive of blue crab conservation and supports a strong conservation position within bi-State commission and supported the new recreational crabbing licenses passed by the legislature. The Governor deserves credit for stopping a proposed black bear hunting season. He has also played a leadership role in conservation efforts of Horseshoe crabs.

Energy Grade: B -



The Governor gets mixed marks on this new report card category.

Accomplishments

The Governor gets high marks for promoting renewable energy and sustainable buildings by signing *Sustaining Maryland's Future with Clean Power, Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency* Executive Order, which calls for 6% green power as part of the State's procurement of electricity for its own use. We applaud the Governor for leading by example on green power and sustainable building technologies. In addition, the Administration supported the Energy Saving Investment Program to reinstate a much needed energy conservation program during the 2001 General Assembly that was, unfortunately, defeated by the Senate Finance Committee.

Needs Improvement

The environmental community was disappointed with the outcome of the 1999 Utility Restructuring Act and the lack of leadership in shaping a better utility deregulation law for the State. Maryland was left without mechanisms to promote conservation and renewable power sources, and the environmental community urges the Governor to take the necessary steps to promote energy efficiency and a renewable energy through legislation or other programs. We also recommend removing any incentives that support energy from municipal solid waste incinerators since MSW incineration produces significant toxic emissions.

Administration

Grade: C+



The Governor receives extra credit for his national leadership to promote environmental issues, but there remain concerns and frustrations about a lack of enforcement and implementation here in Maryland.

Accomplishments

The Governor gets credit for re-establishing the Maryland Department of Planning and his selection for Secretary. He also was instrumental in strengthening and securing the new Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement that will help shape environmental policy in the Chesapeake Region. The environment is often a cornerstone of the Governor's State of the State addresses. He has hosted two Youth Summits that focused on environmental issues and has used his leadership position on the National Governors Association to promote a Smart Growth agenda nationally. The Governor also deserves credit for his Executive Order establishing a Commission on Environmental Justice. In addition, the conservation community thanked the Governor's office for leadership during the 2001 session to improve the standing of citizens in the permit process.

Needs Improvement

Serious concerns remain about enforcement of existing environmental laws. While a large majority of Marylanders (84%) say that either stronger laws protecting the environment should be enacted or that existing laws be more strictly enforced, effective enforcement in the State is seriously neglected. This Administration must designate additional funding, resources, and a commitment to implementation and enforcement.

Administration level commissions and taskforces in general still need improvement. In the 1997 Governor's Report Card, concerns were raised about the appointments on a number of commissions and task forces. While there have been some improvements, additional representatives from the conservation community are needed as well as more resources for commissions to work effectively. Also, conservationists are concerned about the leadership and morale at the Department of Natural Resources, and we recommend the inclusion of public health professionals with expertise on pesticide issues and adequate public participation in developing the State's West Nile Virus response plan.

Air Quality

Grade: A-



In general the Governor's record on protecting air quality has been good.

Accomplishments

The Maryland League praises the Governor for his strong support in maintaining the Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP). This program reduces air pollution in our State, improving our public and environmental health. Scientists report that up to 27% of the nitrogen pollution going into the Chesapeake Bay every year comes from the air, which includes automobile exhaust. The Governor deserves credit for lobbying the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt tighter ozone smog standards.

Needs Improvement

There are problems with the State's data on air pollution used in transportation planning. Unfortunately, the State had "cooked the books" on the data in the Baltimore region in order to show compliance with the Clean Air Act. The Governor should direct his agency to adopt better mobile source emission modeling that accurately reflects the status of our air quality. In addition, the Governor must designate additional resources and commitment to enforcement efforts for stationary sources.

Water

Grade: B+



With significant State treasures like the Chesapeake Bay to protect, we are pleased Governor Glendening has steadily improved in this category.

Accomplishments

The Governor deserves high marks for his swift and appropriate action during the *pfeisteria* outbreaks in Maryland waters in 1997. He closed affected waterways due to concerns for public safety and secured passage of the 1998 Water Quality Improvement Act to curb excess nutrient pollution washing into our waters. The Governor also increased funding to implement BNR technology (biological nutrient removal) at wastewater plants. He also deserves credit for taking on a complicated and controversial issue by establishing a co-permit for large poultry companies to assist their growers with the management of poultry manure. The environmental community applauds the Governor for stopping Site 104 as an open water dumping ground for dredged material and encouraging a compromise that will halt Bay dumping and find more viable beneficial use options. Kudos for his Executive Order to establish a task force to prevent wastewater overflows. The Governor also deserves credit for supporting statewide water conservation legislation in the 2001 session and for his repeated efforts to protect the Potomac River from unnecessary water withdrawals from Virginia.

Needs Improvement

Despite significant success in water quality, the State has failed to manage many of its fundamental Clean Water Act protection programs. There have been too many expired permits, little critical oversight by the agency of industry permit applications, and poor public participation efforts. The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is years behind schedule. Many water quality standards need strengthening based upon new scientific information, including mercury and nutrients, and the State needs biological water quality standards. The Governor must support adequate funding for cover crops and nutrient management plans. While the Governor deserves credit for initiating a dialog regarding septic system upgrades, the State has not followed through with further actions to control nitrogen pollution from septic systems. There are overall funding needs for State water programs. Water and wastewater infrastructure, source water assessment, TMDLs, and enforcement from MDE are all areas in need of sizable new investment and leadership.

Extra Credit



National Leadership: The Governor has taken positions on national issues, which has proven to be valuable in helping shape national environmental policies. For example, Governor Glendening's support for new regulations on factory farms, air pollution control, and the total maximum daily load program has distinguished him from all of his national colleagues. He has also used his leadership position on the National Governors Association to promote a Smart Growth agenda nationally

Fulfillment of Needs Improvement from 1997 Report Card: The Governor has since opposed the Inter-County Connector, secured the purchase of Chapman Forest, has the State on track to achieve its 60,000 acre wetlands restoration goal, and revamped the Pesticide Advisory Council.

Summary:

Overall Grade: B+

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters commends Governor Glendening for his commitment to environmental protection and restoration – a commitment that has been growing throughout his time of office. After a rocky start, Glendening has moved from an average student with significant environmental policy shortcomings to a national leader noted for his Smart Growth program and land preservation efforts. Governor Glendening has responded to the concerns of the majority of Marylanders that care deeply about protecting our clean air, clean water, and quality of life and has set a high bar for his successor.

In poll after poll, Marylanders continue to place a high importance on protecting our clean water, clean air and open space. Eighty-two percent of voters polled in May of 2000 would support candidates for public office who believe we must protect the environment and who support strong laws and enforcement of those laws. In a survey done in early 2001, Maryland voters favored strong environmental protections with over two-thirds opting to protect the environment even if the economy slows.

The Maryland League encourages Governor Glendening to use the remainder of his term to focus serious attention and resources on enforcement efforts, citizen participation improvements, energy and water conservation efforts, stopping new Potomac River crossings, implementing the Bay Agreement, and continuing his leadership to curb sprawl.

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For over 20 years, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters has been “keeping score for the environment” by recording the votes of individual State legislators and evaluating the Governor on important conservation issues. The Maryland League serves as the nonpartisan political voice of the State’s environmental community by promoting environmentally responsible candidates for public office, holding our elected officials accountable, advocating for sound conservation policies and educating voters.

<p>Maryland League of Conservation Voters 23 West St., Suite B Annapolis, MD 21401 410-280-9855 410-280-9857 (fax)</p>
