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CONSERVATION
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March 5, 2010

House Environmental Matters Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support HB 953 “Commercial Feed-Arsenic Prohibition”

Dear Chairman McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters urges your support of HB 953, which will prohibit a person from using, selling, or distributing poultry feed that contains roxarsone or any other additive that contains arsenic.

Arsenic is a carcinogen that has been linked to heart disease, diabetes, and declines in brain function. It is unacceptable that this toxin is legally added to chicken feed in Maryland. About 95% of the arsenic passes through the bird and is excreted in the litter. Then, the toxic arsenic leaches into our groundwater.

Maryland’s leading poultry companies Purdue and Tyson claim they’ve stopped using it, but they could start again at any point. This legislation would hold them to that commitment.

We wish to thank Delegate Hucker for his leadership on this issue and the committee for its consideration of this important matter. We respectfully urge a favorable report of HB 953.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schwartz
Executive Director

For more than 30 years, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters has been the independent political voice for the environment in our state. Maryland LCV is dedicated to making environmental protection and restoration a top priority for Maryland’s elected officials, appointed leaders, candidates and voters. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters advocates for sound conservation policies, works to get pro-environment candidates elected, and holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions.