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April 5, 2010

Budget and Taxation
3 West, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support HB 1155 and SB 760, "Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program – Evaluation and Selection of Proposed Capital Projects"

Dear Chairman Currie and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV pleased to join with the environmental community, MDOT, and MACO in supporting HB 1155 and SB 760. This bill takes a critical step towards a smarter transportation system by providing a transparent decision making process of linking our state's fair and smart goals to how our limited state transportation dollars are spent.

For far too many people, it's too hard to get to work. In these rough times, transportation – by car, bus, or rail – shouldn't be an obstacle, it should be a solution. All types of transportation projects provide good jobs for Marylanders. Construction of transit systems produces twice as many jobs then building highways, while at the same time making it easier for more people to get to work without the high cost of owning a car.

Under our current process, Maryland decides how to spend our limited transportation dollars behind closed doors. We need clear, transparent, criteria, so that all of us can hold them accountable to making choices that improve our quality of life, economy, and environment.

We wish to thank Senator Pugh, Senator Harrington, and Delegate Lafferty for their continued leadership on this critical issue and the committee for its consideration of this important matter. We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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.

