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March 3, 2010

Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee
Taylor Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support SB 141; Oppose cuts to the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, Bay Restoration Fund, Program Open Space, and Environmental Trust Fund; Oppose extension of diversion from RGGI Energy Efficiency Programs

Dear Chairman Currie and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters commends this committee for its leadership during the 2009 Legislative Session for your recognition that state spending to protect Maryland's environment is one of the smartest investments we can make.

Every dollar Maryland invests in protecting our environment saves good jobs today and creates more good jobs tomorrow. We are on track to meet the goal of creating 100,000 clean energy jobs in Maryland by 2015. Upgrading sewage treatment plants across Maryland has created hundreds of jobs, pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy, and reduced the amount of dirty, untreated wastewater polluting our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. Every dollar Maryland invests in Program Open Space creates jobs, bolsters Maryland's economy, and produces a remarkable return on investment.

If job creation is a priority then, this is the wrong time to cut state investments in clean energy and healthy communities. In addition, investments in energy efficiency programs are some of the best help our state can provide to help families save money on their energy bills.

We thank you for the hard work you are doing in these challenging times. We respectfully urge you to favorably report SB 141, ensure that it does not disproportionately cut the above programs, and oppose diversions of RGGI dollars from efficiency to direct bill assistance.

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.

