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*Executive Director*

9 State Circle  
Suite 202  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
www.mdlc.v.org

March 2, 2010

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Opposition of SB 420 “New Development and Redevelopment Projects”**

Dear Chairman Carter Conway and Members of the Committee:

We strongly oppose any rollbacks to the regulations from the Stormwater Management Act of 2007. Stormwater is the **ONLY** pollution source **INCREASING** loads to the Bay and its rivers. If we want healthy waters and healthy communities, we have to reduce pollution from development and redevelopment.

Builders worry about their costs of meeting treatment requirements; however, it will cost more to retrofit after the fact. Developers can share the burden now, or taxpayers can foot the entire bill later. Inadequate stormwater management of the projects developers built over the past 100 years is costing us already – in infrastructure repairs, retrofits, stream restoration, and ongoing maintenance costs by counties and towns. In fact, the stormwater costs for federally mandated reductions from the total maximum daily load compliance totals (TMDLs) are estimated in the range of \$1.6 – \$4.8 Billion.

The regulations work as written since they allow ample flexibility for redevelopment projects to meet requirements in any number of ways. Therefore, the solution should be case-specific, utilizing the flexibility already existing in the regulations, instead of some broad rollback in treatment, protections, or deadlines.

We wish to thank the committee for its consideration of this important matter and we respectfully urge an unfavorable 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.*

