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CONSERVATION
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Executive Director

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

March 9, 2010

Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support SB 569, "Biomass and Biofuels – In-State Production Incentives"

Dear Chairman Middleton and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to support SB 569 and urge a favorable report. This bill positions Maryland as a leader in next generation biofuels by providing an economic incentive for producers through net metering and requiring that, once capacity reaches a certain level, gasoline and diesel fuel sold in Maryland must contain an increasing percentage of biodiesel and cellulosic biofuels.

Although cellulosic ethanol is still five or so years away, it holds great promise both for our economy and environment. Maryland is extremely well situated to become a leader in cellulosic ethanol because we have a robust agricultural industry, proximity to refineries, and a number of universities and research institutions to stimulate further development.

Much work remains in developing the technological advances and infrastructure necessary to ensure the profitability of this industry. SB 569 puts Maryland on the right track by creating the right conditions for biomass and biodiesel to succeed.

We wish to thank Senator Middleton for his leadership on this issue, the committee for its consideration, and 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.

