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March 2, 2010

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

**RE: Support SB 686, “Watershed Protection and Restoration Act”**

Dear Chairman Carter Conway and Members of the Committee:

In order to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, each city and county throughout the region needs funding to invest in its community to reduce the polluted runoff poisoning our waterways.

Current estimates from municipalities across Maryland set the backlog of necessary polluted runoff related infrastructure repairs at over \$20 billion statewide. Investments in infrastructure create ongoing construction, design, and engineering jobs.

This legislation, which is a priority of the environmental community, will give these local jurisdictions a dedicated funding source by assessing a surcharge on impervious surfaces to clean up their rivers and the Bay, create jobs, and leverage additional dollars from the state and federal government for watershed protection and restoration.

We wish to thank Senator Raskin for his leadership on this 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.*