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March 11, 2010

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

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

Dear Chairman Currie and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is pleased to join with the environmental community in supporting SB 760 as a top priority. This bill takes a critical step towards a smarter transportation system by 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 shouldn't be an obstacle, it should be a solution. Construction of transit systems produces twice as many jobs then building highways does, 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 Senators Pugh and Harrington 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.

