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Cindy Schwartz
Executive Director

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



March 2, 2010

Ways and Means
231 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support HB 1155, "Transportation - Consolidated
Transportation Program – Evaluation and Selection of Proposed
Capital Projects"**

Dear Chairman Hixson and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV pleased to join with the environmental community in supporting HB 1155 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 Delegate Lafferty for his 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.