



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

# Hot List – House

WEEK of January 26, 2010

The **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** is pleased to present the "Hot List" a detailed list of environmental legislation moving through the General Assembly *this week*. Our volunteers will deliver the Hot List to your office every Tuesday; it will also be emailed to your office. We hope you find this communication helpful and instructive as you tackle important environmental bills this session. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Brock-Cancellieri at [jbrock@mdlcv.org](mailto:jbrock@mdlcv.org) or 410-280-9855 extension 202.

## IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH

The environmental community's top priorities are:



### **HB 150: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget** *SUPPORT*

We must oppose cuts to Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Programs, the Heritage Structure Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit) and protect funding for our Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning agencies.



### **HB TBD: Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland** *SUPPORT*

In a time of scarce transportation dollars, we need to make sure we are investing state funds wisely. This package of bills will establish smart growth criteria for funding transportation projects to make it easy for the state to choose proposals that ensure our transportation and land use decisions work together to provide more travel choices to Maryland citizens, especially for those who do not own cars; reduce environmental damage from transportation projects; and improve access to jobs. One bill will help measure regional transportation problems and allow the state to comment on proposals of regional impact. Another bill will establish accountability with a system for local governments to report how they are spending transportation funding they get from the state. A final bill will make the roads safer for bicycling.

**Sponsors: Delegates Lafferty, Simmons**



### **HB TBD: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act** *SUPPORT*

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. This legislation 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 green jobs, and leverage additional dollars from the state and federal government for watershed protection and restoration.

**Sponsor: Delegates Hucker and Cardin**

### **HB TBD: Comprehensive Energy Planning** *Maryland LCV Priority*

Requires the Public Service Commission (PCS) to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws. The PSC would then review proposals from energy companies with respect to the state plan and environmental laws such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

**Sponsor: Delegate Manno**

## ***SUPPORT***

In addition to these 4 priority issues and bills, we will also work on a number of other bills this session. If you have bills that you would like us to consider for the Hot List or submit testimony on, please contact Jen Brock-Cancellieri at [jbrock@mdlcv.org](mailto:jbrock@mdlcv.org) or 410-280-9855 x 202.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **HB TBD: Stormwater Management**

**Sponsor: Del. Holmes**

**Briefing: January 26 at 10:30 am in Environmental Matters**

### ***OPPOSE***

We oppose any rollbacks to the Stormwater Management regulations. Stormwater is the ONLY pollution source INCREASING loads to the Bay and its rivers. If we want healthy water, we have to step up reductions 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 whole bill later. The regulations work as written as they allow ample flexibility for redevelopment projects to meet requirements in any number of ways

### **HB 33: Child Care Articles and Toys Containing Bisphenol-A (“BPA”)**

**Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard**

**Hearing: February 2 at 1pm Health and Government Operations**

### ***SUPPORT***

Prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of toys or child care articles containing Bisphenol-A; requiring the use of the least toxic alternative.

### **HB 51: Real Property - Installation and Use of Clotheslines on Residential Property**

**Sponsor: Delegate G Clagett**

**Committee Hearing: February 4 at 2 pm in Environmental Matters**

### ***SUPPORT***

This bill encourages energy conservation by prohibiting communities from banning clotheslines on residential property.

### **HB 70: Bay Restoration Fund - Expanded Uses of Funds**

**Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh**

**Committee Hearing: February 3 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters**

### ***SUPPORT***

Recommended by the Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee to make the best use of the Bay Restoration Funds for local governments to use in their enhanced nutrient removal programs

### **HB 221: Keep Farmers Farming**

**Sponsor: Delegate Kullen**

**Committee Hearing: February 2 at 1pm in Ways and Means**

### ***SUPPORT***

Alleviates the estate tax burden for farmers either through full relief of the tax for farms that stay in farming or relief for farms that are put into preservation easement.

## UP AND COMING BILLS

### **HB TBD: Building Energy Disclosure**

**Sponsor: Delegate Hecht**

***SUPPORT***

Requires that all government and commercial building owners publicly disclose energy use for the building.

### **HB TBD: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting**

***SUPPORT***

Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.

### **HB TBD: Incinerator Regulation**

***SUPPORT***

Establishes criteria for the building, re-licensing, or re-permitting of any incinerator or waste-to-energy facility.

### **HB TBD: Clean Energy Loans**

***SUPPORT***

Gives cities and municipalities the ability to loan citizens money for solar or energy efficiency projects at very low interest rates, resulting in more access for homeowners.

### **HB TBD: Heritage Tax Credit**

***SUPPORT***

Reauthorizes the historic tax credit.

### **HB TBD: Keep Coal Ash Out of Our Water**

***SUPPORT***

Prohibits certain uses of coal ash and adds stricter requirements to prevent toxic dust from blowing in the wind.

### **HB TBD: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice**

***SUPPORT***

Reduces waste and energy demands by establishing a customer bag credit program for reusable bags used in place of plastic and paper bags.

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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.

**[www.mdlev.org](http://www.mdlev.org)**