



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – House

WEEK of February 16, 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 or 410-280-9855 extension 202.

IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH

The environmental community’s top priorities are:



HB 150: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget

Committee Hearing: On going committee hearings in Appropriations

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.



Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland

HB 282: Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

Sponsor: Delegate Peña-Melnyk

Committee Hearing: March 2 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings

HB 461: Three Foot Bicycle Safety Rule

Sponsor: Delegate Cardin

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Environmental Matters

HB TBD: Consolidated Transportation Program

Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty

SUPPORT

In a time of scarce transportation dollars, we need to make sure we are investing state funds wisely. The first bill 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. It will also reduce environmental damage from transportation projects and improve access to jobs. The other bills will make the roads safer for bicycling.



HB 999: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act

Sponsors: Delegates Huckler and Cardin

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.

HB 522: Public Service Commission - Report on the State's Long-Term Energy Needs
Maryland LCV Priority

Sponsors: Delegates Manno and Hecht

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Economic Matters

SUPPORT

Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws and to review proposals with respect to that state plan.

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 or 410-280-9855 x 202.

COMMITTEE ACTION

HB TBD : Stormwater Management

Sponsor: Delegate Holmes

Briefing Held: 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 entire bill later. The regulations work as written since 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

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

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: Already Heard

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: Already Heard

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 169: Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act

Sponsor: Delegate Carr

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

This bill authorizes local jurisdictions to install safer, more energy efficient road lamps.

Keep Farmers Farming

HB: 160: Estate Tax Exclusion for Family Farm in Preservation

Sponsor: Delegate Malone

HB 221: Estate Tax Exclusion for Qualified Agricultural Property

Sponsor: Delegate Kullen

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

Many farm families are forced off their land when the parents die because of the burden of estate taxes; we support full relief for farmers from this tax. But in these fiscal times, we also support partial relief for those farmers who go the extra mile and preserve their property. Keeping farmers farming promotes smart growth and protects our open spaces.

HB 313: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses

Sponsor: Delegate Costa

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Reduces pollution by authorizing the Bay Restoration Fund to pay the cost of connecting properties served by onsite sewage disposal systems to existing municipal wastewater facilities.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

HB 349: Maryland Efficiency Standards Act – Televisions

Sponsors: Delegates Carr and Bronrott

Committee Hearing: February 18 at 1pm in Economic Matters

SUPPORT

Saves energy and reduces global warming pollution by establishing minimum efficiency standards for televisions sold in Maryland.

HB 446: Distribution of Telephone Directories - Customer Opt Out

Sponsor: Delegate Stein

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

Requires a telephone company to provide customers with an opportunity to opt out of receiving telephone directories distributed by, or on behalf of, the telephone company.

HB 471: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar

Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O'Malley)

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Economic Matters

SUPPORT

Require a quicker ramp-up of the solar portion of the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), which would jumpstart job creation and cut down on our emission of global warming pollution.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

HB 527: Abandoned Vessels

Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett

Committee Hearing: February 24 at 1pm in Environmental Matters

SUPPORT

Makes it easier for citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to remove abandoned boats.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

HB 624: Pharmaceutical Disposal Act

Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett

Committee Hearing: February 24 at 1pm in Environmental Matters

SUPPORT

Reduces water pollution by requiring healthcare facilities to safely dispose of pharmaceuticals.

NEW Net Energy Metering
THIS HB 701: Payment for Accrued Generation Credit
WEEK Sponsor: Delegate Hecht
HB 801: Credits
Sponsor: Delegate McHale
Committee Hearing: March 2 at 1pm in Economic Matters
SUPPORT

HB 701 requires utilities to pay customers back for surplus energy they create with the solar panels on their roofs. HB 801 allows for customers to submit a written request of payment for surplus energy credits generated every quarter or year. These incentives will create a more robust market for energy generation.

HB 710: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding
Sponsor: Delegate Howard
Committee Hearing: March at 1pm jointly in Ways and Means and Environmental Matters
SUPPORT

Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on Maryland Transportation Funding.

HB 716: Direct Wine Shipping
Sponsors: Delegate Krysiak
Committee Hearing: March 5 at 1pm in Economic Matters
SUPPORT

The bill supports sustainable farming practices and maintaining Maryland's farms and open spaces by promoting the sale of a growing agricultural product –Maryland wine. This bill would allow both wineries and retailers to ship up to 24 cases of wine to a Maryland resident per year.

UP AND COMING BILLS

HB 351: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act
Sponsor: Delegate Carr
SUPPORT

Reduces waste and energy demands by establishing a customer bag revenue program for reusable bags used in place of plastic and paper bags. A portion of the fee will go to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund.

HB 475: Sustainable Communities Act
Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O'Malley)
SUPPORT

Reestablishes and alters the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (a.k.a., the Historic Tax Credit) to be the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program.

Building Energy Disclosure
HB 705: State, County, and Municipal Buildings
Sponsor: Delegate Stein
HB 985: Public and Commercial Buildings
Sponsor: Delegate Hecht
SUPPORT

HB 705 requires that all government buildings publicly disclose building energy use; HB 985 adds an additional requirement for commercial building owners.

HB 930: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting
Sponsor: Delegate Frush
SUPPORT

Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.

HB 1014: Clean Energy Loans

Sponsors: Delegates Hecht and Waldstreicher

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: Incinerator Regulation

SUPPORT

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

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: Long-Term Power Purchasing Agreements

Sponsor: Delegate Hucker

SUPPORT

Requires the Public Service Commission to enter into long-term purchasing contracts with renewable energy sources

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.

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