



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – House

WEEK of February 2, 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 *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 receive 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.

Sponsors: Delegates Hucker and Cardin

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

Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) 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: Delegates Manno and Hecht

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: Del. 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: February 2 at 1pm in 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.

NEW **HB 103: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents**

THIS **Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty**

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

SUPPORT

This bill requires additional land use planning when the relocation of dislocated residents of mobile parks occurs to encourage the continuation of their community.

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

THIS **Sponsor: Delegate Carr**

WEEK **Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1pm in Environmental Matters**

SUPPORT

Authorizing the State Highway Administration, the Maryland Transportation Authority, or a political subdivision to install or replace a specified luminaire for highway lighting only if it determines that the concerns to be addressed by the lighting cannot be addressed by specified alternative means and if replaced it must be with an energy efficient light bulb.

NEW **HB 221/HB 160: Keep Farmers Farming**
THIS **Sponsors: Delegates Kullen and Malone**
WEEK **Committee Hearing: February 2 at 2pm in Ways and Means**
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.

NEW **HB 313: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses**
THIS **Sponsor: Delegate Costa**
WEEK **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.

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.

NEW **HB 475: Sustainable Communities Act**
THIS **Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O'Malley)**
WEEK **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.

HB TBD: Building Energy Disclosure
Sponsor: Delegate Hecht

SUPPORT

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

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 incinerator or waste-to-energy facility.

HB TBD: Clean Energy Loans

Sponsors: Delegate 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: 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.

NEW **HB TBD: Direct Wine Shipping**

THIS Sponsors: Delegate Krysiak

WEEK ***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.

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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