



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



Hot List – House


WEEK of March 23, 2010 (Amended March 25th)

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:

	<p>HB 150/HB 151: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget Committee Hearing: Ongoing committee hearings in Appropriations <i>OPPOSE</i> - We urge you to reject the Department of Legislative Services’ proposals to cut the 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and limit remaining funds to cover crops, to extend last year’s diversion of RGGI, to repeal mandated funding for the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, and to eliminate the Maryland Environmental Trust.</p> <p><i>SUPPORT AS PROPOSED</i> We must oppose cuts to Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs, the Heritage Structure Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit) and protect funding for our Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning agencies.</p>
	<p>Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland</p> <p>HB 282: Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Sponsor: Delegate Peña-Melnyk Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p> <p>HB 461: Three Foot Bicycle Safety Rule Sponsor: Delegate Cardin Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p> <p>HB 1155: Consolidated Transportation Program Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p> <p>HB 1193: The Shoulder Rule Bill Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p> <p><i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>In a time of scarce transportation dollars, we need to make sure we are investing state funds wisely. HB 1155 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.</p>

	<p>HB 999: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act Sponsors: Delegates Huckler and Cardin Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>In order to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, 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.</p>
<p>Maryland LCV Priority</p> <p>Amended March 25th</p>	<p>HB 964: Stormwater Management Sponsor: Delegate Haddaway-Riccio Committee Hearing: Hearing Cancelled OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 1408: Stormwater Management Sponsor: Delegate G. Clagett Committee Hearing: Re-referred to Environmental Matters OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 1409: Stormwater Management Sponsor: Delegate G. Clagett Committee Hearing: Re-referred to Environmental Matters OPPOSE</p> <p>Stormwater Management (3 bills) - 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 and allow ample flexibility for redevelopment projects.</p>
<p>Maryland LCV Priority</p>	<p>HB 522: Public Service Commission - Report on the State's Long-Term Energy Needs Sponsors: Delegates Manno and Hecht Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>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.</p>

In addition to these five 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.

FLOOR ACTION

<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>HB 1161: Special Taxing Districts - State Hospital Redevelopment Sponsor: Delegate Jones Committee Action: Favorable with Amendments Report by Ways and Means OPPOSE</p> <p>Extends tax benefits and directs limited public dollars to benefit specific private development projects.</p>
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	<p>HB 103: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Action: Favorable with Amendments by Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p>
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	This is a smart growth measure that requires better land use planning for the relocation of dislocated residents of mobile parks to encourage the continuation of their community.
	<p>HB 710: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding Sponsor: Delegate Howard Committee Action: Favorable with Amendments by Ways and Means SUPPORT</p> <p>Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on Maryland Transportation Funding.</p>
	<p>HB 943: Chesapeake Conservation Corps Sponsors: Delegate McIntosh Committee Action: Favorable with Amendments by Environmental Matters SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>The bill would establish a public-private volunteer service-based program that will train young adults for green-collar and community organizing jobs in environmental restoration, protection, energy conservation and education.</p>

COMMITTEE ACTION

	<p>HB 51: Real Property - Installation and Use of Clotheslines on Residential Property Sponsor: Delegate G. Clagett Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>This bill encourages energy conservation by prohibiting communities from banning clotheslines on residential property.</p>
	<p>HB: 160: Estate Tax Exclusion for Family Farm in Preservation Sponsor: Delegate Malone Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 221: Estate Tax Exclusion for Qualified Agricultural Property Sponsor: Delegate Kullen Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>Keep Farmers Farming (2 bills) - 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.</p>
	<p>HB 169: Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Action: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>This bill authorizes local jurisdictions to install safer, more energy efficient road lamps.</p>

	<p>HB 313: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses Sponsor: Delegate Costa Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</i> 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.</p>
	<p>HB 349: Maryland Efficiency Standards Act – Televisions Sponsors: Delegates Carr and Bronrott Committee Action: Unfavorable Report by Economic Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> Saves energy and reduces global warming pollution by establishing minimum efficiency standards for televisions sold in Maryland.</p>
	<p>HB 351: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Reduces waste and energy demands by establishing a customer credit for using reusable bags instead of disposable bags and establishing a fee on the use of disposable bags. A significant portion of the fee will go to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund.</p>
	<p>HB 468: Qualified Submerged Energy Lines Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> This bill would help facilitate development of offshore wind energy off the coast of Maryland.</p>
	<p>HB 471: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Require a quicker ramp-up of the solar portion of the state’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS), which would jump-start job creation and cut down on our emission of global warming pollution.</p>
	<p>HB 475: Sustainable Communities Act Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> 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.</p>
	<p>HB 527: Abandoned Vessels Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Makes it easier for citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to remove abandoned boats.</p>
	<p>HB 649: Pharmaceutical Disposal Act Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Reduces water pollution by requiring healthcare facilities to safely dispose of pharmaceuticals.</p>

	<p>HB 701: Payment for Accrued Generation Credit Sponsor: Delegate Hecht Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 801: Credits Sponsor: Delegate McHale Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 852: Net Energy Metering Credit Transfers for Municipalities Sponsor: Delegate George Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 902: Net Energy Metering Credit Transfers Sponsor: Delegate George Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 1169: Agricultural Energy Production Act of 2010 Sponsor: Delegate Bartlett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Net Energy Metering (5 bills) - HB 701 requires utilities to pay customers for surplus energy created with solar panels. HB 801 allows for customers to submit a written request of payment for surplus energy credits generated. HB 852 allows municipalities to transfer renewable energy credits for future projects. HB 902 allows specified not-for-profit customers to transfer generation credits accrued from electricity produced from specified renewable sources to specified properties. HB 1169 allows farmers to use methane gas to power their farms. These incentives will create a more robust market for energy generation.</p>
	<p>HB 985: Public and Commercial Buildings Sponsor: Delegate Hecht Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 1291: Residential Home Sales Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Building Energy Disclosure (2 bills) - HB 705 requires that all government buildings publicly disclose building energy use; HB 985 adds an additional requirement for commercial building owners; and HB 1291 requires residential homeowners to publically disclose utility use at time of listing.</p>
	<p>HB 716: Direct Wine Shipping Sponsors: Delegates Krysiak and Hucker Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>HB 827: Biomass and Biofuels - In-State Production Incentives Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Allows farmers to receive revenue for surplus energy produced with biofuels and requires blending biofuels into transportation fuels to provide energy independence and cleaner water.</p>
	<p>HB 903: Road Salt Management Programs Sponsor: Delegate Kramer Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Road salt can have a significant impact in fresh water streams. This bill requires jurisdictions responsible for highway maintenance to establish and implement a best practices road salt management program.</p>
	<p>HB 944: Recycling - Bars and Restaurants - Beverage Containers Sponsor: Delegate Niemann Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes a program for recycling of specified beverage containers from bars and restaurants.</p>
	<p>HB 953: Agriculture - Commercial Feed - Arsenic Prohibition Sponsor: Delegate Hucker Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Prohibiting a person from using, selling, or distributing poultry feed that contains roxarsone or any other additive that contains arsenic.</p>
	<p>HB 982: Solid Waste Management - Recycling - Requirements Sponsor: Delegate Niemann Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires the creation of a statewide recycling plan and establishes recycling goals.</p>
	<p>HB 1014: Clean Energy Loans Sponsors: Delegates Hecht and Waldstreicher <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: Already Heard 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.</p>
	<p>HB 1040: High Performance Building Act Sponsor: Delegate Bronrott Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Expands the High Performance Buildings Act requiring LEED Silver Standard for capital projects that are funded solely or partly by a grant of state aid.</p>

	<p>HB 1041: The Lead Paint Reduction Act of 2010 Sponsors: Delegate Waldstreicher Committee Action: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters SUPPORT Gives legal standing to neighborhood associations to sue on behalf of its members over damages from lead paint poisoning and makes current lead paint law consistent across the state.</p>
	<p>HB 1153: Lead Paint Dust Testing Bill Sponsor: Delegate Oaks Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT This bill ensures that rental properties are tested for the presence of lead containing dust instead of the current visual testing method. This will help eliminate childhood lead poisoning.</p>
	<p>HB 1191: Natural Resources - Oyster Poaching – Hearing Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT This bill complements the Governor's oyster initiative by directing DNR to conduct an administrative hearing for anyone who receives a citation for oyster poaching.</p>
	<p>HB 1224: Long-Term Power Purchasing Agreements Sponsor: Delegate Hucker SUPPORT Committee Hearing: Already Heard Requires the Public Service Commission to enter into long-term purchasing contracts with renewable energy sources.</p>
	<p>HB 1230: Task Force to Encourage Recycling and Reduce Litter in Maryland's Waterways Sponsor: Delegate Olszewski Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Establishes a task force to develop strategies to encourage recycling and reduce litter in Maryland's waterways.</p>
	<p>HB 1257: No-Discharge Designation for Maryland Waters Sponsor: Delegate Holmes (At the Request of the Attorney General) Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Reduces nutrient pollution by prohibiting boats from discharging treated and untreated sewage into the waters of the state.</p>
	<p>HB 1321: Littering and Securing Loads on Vehicles - Online Reporting of Violations Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Establishes an online reporting hotline to make it easier to identify and ticket persons responsible for littering and for operating trucks with improperly covered loads.</p>
	<p>HB 1360: Invasive Plants - Labeling and Notice Sponsor: Delegate Boteler Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Discourages the introduction of invasive plants by requiring retailers to notify customers that invasive species sold could cause harm to the environment.</p>

	<p>HB 1404: Transit Review and Evaluation Sponsor: Delegate Gaines Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires the Department of Transportation to review and evaluate policies for discreet, achievable changes to our transportation planning process that could lead to smarter transportation choices state-wide.</p>
	<p>HB 1427: Incinerator Regulation Sponsor: Delegate Hucker Committee Hearing: Assigned to Rules and Executive Nominations <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes criteria for the building, re-licensing, or re-permitting of an incinerator or waste-to-energy facility.</p>
	<p>HB 1467: Keep Coal Ash Out of Our Water Sponsor: Delegate Stein Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Prohibits certain uses of coal ash, a byproduct of coal fired power plants, and adds stricter requirements to prevent toxic dust from poisoning our waters.</p>

GOOD GOVERNANCE BILLS

Open transparent government is critical to the Maryland LCV's mission of holding legislators accountable. Therefore, we are tracking the following good governance bills this session:

	<p>HB 107: Legislative Voting Sunshine Act Sponsor: Delegate Ali <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: Already Heard Requires that certain votes taken on a bill or amendments in a standing committee be made available on the Maryland General Assembly website by a certain time.</p>
	<p>HB 344: Maryland Open Government Act Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires all standing committee votes be posted and accessible on the Maryland General Assembly website; requires additional measures to enable more public participation in General Assembly and Board of Public Works hearings.</p>
	<p>HB 1031: Open Meetings Bill Sponsors: Delegates O'Donnell and Mizeur Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by Health and Government Operations <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board develop and offer an online training program on the requirements of the open meetings law to employees, officers, and members of the public.</p>

BILLS THROUGH THE SENATE CHAMBER

	<p>SB 3/HB 89: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees Sponsor: Delegate O'Donnell SB 3 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 42-0 in Senate, Assigned to Environmental Matters HB 89 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 138-0 in House, Assigned to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs SUPPORT Exempting aquaculture activities for which the Department of Natural Resources has issued a specified permit from a requirement to pay application fees under the Wetlands and Waterways Program.</p>
	<p>SB 29: Preparation of Fishery Management Plans Sponsor: Senator Astle Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0 in Senate, Assigned to Environmental Matters SUPPORT The Task Force on Fisheries Management recommended this legislation that authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to develop fishery management plans for species in need as identified by the Department in addition to the 24 species already listed in statute. State agencies and commissions managing fisheries in the mid-Atlantic region, including Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina, already hold this authority.</p>
	<p>SB 95: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Farmland Preservation Partnership Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway (By Request of the Department of Agriculture) Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters SUPPORT Establishes a Farmland Preservation Partnership Program to preserve productive agricultural and forested lands; forms partnerships to purchase easements that meet specified criteria.</p>
	<p>SB 213/HB 33: Child Care Articles and Toys Containing Bisphenol-A (BPA) Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard SB 213 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 46-0 in Senate, Assigned to Health & Government Operations HB 33 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 137-0 in House, Assigned to Finance SUPPORT Prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of toys or child care articles containing BPA; requiring the use of the least toxic alternative.</p>
	<p>SB 224/HB 763: Solar Drying Bill Sponsor: Delegate Montgomery Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0 in the Senate, Assigned to Environmental Matters SUPPORT Removes the prohibition of clotheslines or other outdoor laundry drying devices, but would allow condominiums, homeowners associations or housing cooperatives to adopt reasonable rules regarding the timing, placement, and manner of use of these devices.</p>

	<p>SB 229: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding Sponsor: Senator Garagiola Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters and Ways & Means SUPPORT Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on Maryland Transportation Funding.</p>
	<p>SB 235: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents Sponsor: Senator Robey Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 31-13, Assigned to Environmental Matters SUPPORT This is a smart growth measure that requires better land use planning for the relocation of dislocated residents of mobile parks to encourage the continuation of their community.</p>
	<p>SB 311: Chesapeake Conservation Corps Sponsors: Senators Miller and Klausmeier Committee Action: Passed Third Reader 33-14, Assigned to Environmental Matters SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS The bill would establish a public-private volunteer service-based program that will train young adults for green-collar and community organizing jobs in environmental restoration, protection, energy conservation and education.</p>
	<p>SB 355: Net Energy Metering Sponsor: Senator Pinsky Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Economic Matters SUPPORT The bill would require utilities to pay customers back for surplus energy they create with the solar panels on their roofs. These incentives will create a more robust market for energy generation.</p>

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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