



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



Hot List – House


WEEK of March 30, 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:

	<p>HB 150/HB 151: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget Committee Action: Favorable with Amendments by Appropriations <i>SUPPORT AS PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR O’MALLEY</i> OPPOSE - We urge you to reject the Department of Legislative Services’ proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cut the 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and limit remaining funds to cover crops, • extend last year’s diversion of funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), • eliminate the Maryland Environmental Trust, • raid Program Open Space, • cut the Heritage Structure Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit) and • repeal mandated funding for the Department of Natural Resources and Planning agencies. • We also urge you to reject funding restrictions to the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic. <p>Learn more at www.supportgoodmdjobs.com</p>
	<p>Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland HB 282: Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Sponsor: Delegate Peña-Melnyk Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments HB 461/SB 51: Three Foot Bicycle Safety Rule Sponsor: Delegate Cardin/Senator Raskin HB 461 Committee Hearing: Already Heard SB 51 Committee Hearing: March 30 at 1pm in Environmental Matters HB 1155: Consolidated Transportation Program Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments HB 1193: The Shoulder Rule Bill Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT 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>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) - 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>HB 527: Abandoned Vessels Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett Floor Action: Second Reading Passed with Amendments SUPPORT</p> <p>Makes it easier for citizens and the Department of Natural Resources to remove abandoned boats.</p>
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	<p>HB 801: Credits Sponsor: Delegate McHale Floor Action: Third Reading Passed 140-0, Assigned to Finance SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 852: Net Energy Metering Credit Transfers for Municipalities Sponsor: Delegate George Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 902: Net Energy Metering Credit Transfers Sponsor: Delegate George Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 1169: Agricultural Energy Production Act of 2010 Sponsor: Delegate Bartlett Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments SUPPORT</p> <p>Net Energy Metering (4 Bills): 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 903: Road Salt Management Programs Sponsor: Delegate Kramer Committee Hearing: Second Reading Passed with Amendments SUPPORT</p> <p>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 1161: Special Taxing Districts - State Hospital Redevelopment Sponsor: Delegate Jones Floor Action: Third Reading Passed 139-0, Assigned to Budget and Taxation OPPOSE</p> <p>Extends tax benefits and directs limited public dollars to benefit specific private development projects.</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>
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	<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 313: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses Sponsor: Delegate Costa Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>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 351: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>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>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 357: Land Acquisition, Notification and Approval Sponsor: Dorchester County Delegation Committee Hearing: Already Heard OPPOSE</p> <p>Prohibits the State from acquiring land for open space purposes in Dorchester County unless the County Council of Dorchester County approves the purchase.</p>
	<p>HB 468: Qualified Submerged Energy Lines Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O'Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>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 SUPPORT</p> <p>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 649: Pharmaceutical Disposal Act Sponsor: Delegate V. Clagett Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>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: Withdrawn from Economic Matters SUPPORT HB 701 requires utilities to pay customers for surplus energy created with solar panels.</p>
	<p>HB 716: Direct Wine Shipping Sponsors: Delegates Krysiak and Hucker Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by 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.</p>
	<p>HB 827: Biomass and Biofuels - In-State Production Incentives Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT 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 944: Recycling - Bars and Restaurants - Beverage Containers Sponsor: Delegate Niemann Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT 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 SUPPORT 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 SUPPORT Requires the creation of a statewide recycling plan and establishes recycling goals.</p>
	<p>HB 985: Public and Commercial Buildings Sponsor: Delegate Hecht Committee Hearing: Withdrawn by Economic Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 1291: Residential Home Sales Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>Building Energy Disclosure (2 bills) - 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 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 1153: Lead Paint Dust Testing Bill Sponsor: Delegate Oaks Committee Hearing: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 1224: Long-Term Power Purchasing Agreements Sponsor: Delegate Hucker <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: Withdrawn from Economic Matters 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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: Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 statewide.</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>

BILLS THROUGH THE SENATE CHAMBER

	<p>SB 3/HB 89: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees Sponsor: Delegate O’Donnell SB 3 Committee Action: March 31 at 1pm in Environmental Matters HB 89 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 138-0 in House, Assigned to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>
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	<p>SB 29: Preparation of Fishery Management Plans Sponsor: Senator Astle SB 29 Committee Action: March 31 at 1pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>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) SB 95 Committee Action: March 31 at 1pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>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 Committee Action: March 30 at 1pm in Health & Government Operations HB 33 Committee Action: Already Heard in Finance SUPPORT</p> <p>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 SB 224 Committee Action: April 1 at 1pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>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>SB229/HB710: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding Sponsor: Senator Garagiola SB 229 Committee Action: Hearing April 6 at 1pm in Ways and Means HB 710 Committee Action: Hearing March 31 at 1pm in Budget and Taxation SUPPORT</p> <p>Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on Maryland Transportation Funding.</p>
	<p>SB 235/HB 103: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty SB 235 Committee Action: April 1 at 1pm in Environmental Matters HB 103 Floor Action: Third Reader Passed 115-25, Assigned to Judicial Proceedings SUPPORT</p> <p>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>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>SB 281/HB 469: Tax Credit For Electric Vehicles Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O'Malley) SB 281 Committee Action: April 6 at 1pm in Ways and Means HB 469 Committee Action: March 31 at 1 pm in Budget and Taxation SUPPORT</p> <p>Allows a tax credit for qualified plug-in electric drive vehicles to encourage use of clean vehicles.</p>

	<p>SB 311/HB 943 : Chesapeake Conservation Corps Sponsors: Delegate McIntosh SB 311: Passed Third Reader in Senate 33-14, Assigned to Environmental Matters HB 943 Floor Action: Third Reading Passed 110-29 Sponsors: Senators Miller and Klausmeier <i>SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</i> 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>
POSITION CHANGED THIS WEEK	<p>SB 342/HB 1191: Natural Resources - Oyster Poaching – Hearing Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh SB 342 Committee Hearing: Third Reading Passed 44-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters <i>OPPOSE AS AMENDED</i> As introduced 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. We now oppose the bill as amended because it will prohibit DNR from creating of a new oyster sanctuaries until 2011.</p>
	<p>SB 355: Net Energy Metering Sponsor: Senator Pinsky Committee Action: April 6 at 1pm in Economic Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>
	<p>SB 556: Environment - Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether - Prohibitions Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 44-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</i> This bill prohibits the use of flame-retardant DecaBDE from nearly all products sold or produced in Maryland by January 1, 2011.</p>
	<p>SB 775: Road Salt Management Programs Sponsor: Senator Kramer <i>SUPPORT</i> Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters Road salt can have a significant impact in our streams. This bill requires jurisdictions responsible for highway maintenance to establish and implement a best practices road salt management program.</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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