



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

# Hot List – Senate

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:



### **SB 140: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget**

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

**SUPPORT**



### **SB TBD: Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland**

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 improves access to jobs. One bill will also 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; and a final bill will make the roads safer for bicycling.

**Sponsors: Senators Pugh, Frosh, and Harrington**

**Sponsor: Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, EPAMDs, and Motor Scooters - Rules of the Road - SB 51 Senator Raskin**

**Committee Hearing: February 2 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings**

**SUPPORT**



### **SB TBD: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act**

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: Senator Raskin**

**SUPPORT**

### **SB TBD: Comprehensive Energy Planning – Maryland LCV Priority**

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.

#### ***SUPPORT***

In addition to our four 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**

### **SB 3: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees**

**Sponsor: Senator Klausmeier**

**Committee Hearing: January 28 at 1:45 pm in 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.

### **SB 29: Preparation of Fishery Management Plans**

**Sponsor: Senator Astle**

**Committee Hearing: Already Heard**

#### ***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.

### **SB 37: Oysters – Patent Tongs and Power Dredges**

**Sponsor: Senator Colburn**

**Committee Hearing: Already Heard**

#### ***OPPOSE***

Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting the use of patent tongs and power dredges to catch oysters in the waters of the state; providing for the application of a specified provision of the Act; and making stylistic changes.

### **SB 63: Transit-Oriented Development - Pledge and Use of Tax Increment Revenues - Operations and Maintenance Funding**

**Sponsor: Senator Currie (By Request of Department of Transportation)**

**Committee Hearing: January 27 at 2pm in Budget and Taxation**

#### ***SUPPORT***

Provides more flexibility to distribute funds to encourage investment in transit-oriented development, encouraging smart growth and sustainable communities.

### **SB 95: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Farmland Preservation Partnership Program**

**Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway (By Request of the Department of Agriculture)**

**Committee Hearing: January 27 at 2pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

#### ***SUPPORT***

Establishes a Farmland Preservation Partnership Program to preserve productive agricultural and forested lands; forms partnerships to purchase easements that meet specified criteria

**SB 224: Solar Drying Bill**

**Sponsor: Senator King**

**Committee Hearing: February 3 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings**

***SUPPORT***

Removes the prohibition of clotheslines or other outdoor laundry drying devices, but would allow the condominiums, homeowners associations or housing cooperatives to adopt reasonable rules regarding the timing, placement and manner of use of these devices.

## **UP AND COMING BILLS**

**SB 213: Child Care Articles and Toys Containing Bisphenol-A (“BPA”)**

**Sponsor: Senator Frosh**

***SUPPORT***

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

**SB 228: Incinerator Regulation**

**Sponsor: Senator Mooney**

***SUPPORT***

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

**SB TBD: Building Energy Disclosure**

**Sponsor: Senator Lenett**

***SUPPORT***

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

**SB TBD: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting**

***SUPPORT***

Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.

**SB TBD: Keep Farmers Farming**

***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.

**SB 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.

**SB TBD: Heritage Tax Credit**

***SUPPORT***

Reauthorizes the historic tax credit.

**SB 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.

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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.