



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – Senate

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:



SB 140/SB 141: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget

Committee Hearing: On going committee hearings in Budget & Taxation

SUPPORT

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.



Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland

SB 760: Consolidated Transportation Program

Sponsors: Senators Pugh and Harrington

SB 51: Three-Foot Bicycle Safety Bill

Sponsor: Senator Raskin

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SB 624: The Shoulder Rule Bill

Sponsor: Senator Frosh

Committee Hearing: February 25 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings

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.



SB 686: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act

Sponsor: Senator Raskin

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.

SB TBD: Comprehensive Energy Planning – Maryland LCV Priority

Sponsor: Senator Lenett

SUPPORT

Requires the Department of Planning to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws and requires the Public Service Commission to review proposals from energy companies with respect to the state plan and environmental laws such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

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 or 410-280-9855 x 202.

COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 3: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees

Sponsor: Senator Klausmeier

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

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 20: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses

Sponsor: Senator Colburn

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.

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: Already Heard

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: [Already Heard](#)

SUPPORT

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

Keep Farmers Farming

SB 155: Estate Tax Exclusion for Family Farm in Preservation

Sponsor: Senator Glassman

Committee Hearing: [Already Heard](#)

SB 592: Estate Tax Exclusion for Qualified Agricultural Property

Sponsor: Senator Garagiola

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.

SB 156: Apartment Building Recycling

Sponsor: Senator Brochin

Committee Hearing: [Already Heard](#)

SUPPORT

Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums that contain 10 or more dwelling units to provide for recycling for residents on or before October 1, 2014.

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

Sponsor: Senator Frosh

Committee Hearing: [February 17 at 1pm in Finance](#)

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 215: High Performance Building Act

Sponsor: Senator Frosh

Committee Hearing: [Already Heard](#)

SUPPORT

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.

SB 224: Solar Drying Bill

Sponsor: Senator King

Committee Hearing: [Already Heard](#)

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.

Incinerator Regulation

SB 228: Conditions for Issuance

Sponsor: Senator Mooney

Committee Hearing: [Already Heard](#)

SB 514: Limitations on Issuance

Sponsor: Senator Lenett

Committee Hearing: TBD in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUPPORT

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

SB 229: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding

Sponsor: Senator Garagiola

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1:15pm in Budget and Taxation

SUPPORT

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

SB 235: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents

Sponsor: Senator Robey

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

This is a smart growth measure that requires better land use planning of the relocation of dislocated residents of mobile parks to encourage the continuation of their community.

SB 277: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar

Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O'Malley)

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Finance

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.

SB 285: Sustainable Communities Act

Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O'Malley)

Committee Hearing: February 17 at 1pm in Budget and Taxation

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.

SB 311: Chesapeake Conservation Corps

Sponsors: Senators Miller and Klausmeier

Committee Hearing: February 16 at 2pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUPPORT

The bill would establish a public-private volunteer serviced-based program training young adults for green-collar and community organizing jobs in environmental restoration, protection, energy conservation and education.

SB 355: Net Energy Metering

Sponsor: Senator Pinsky

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

Require utilities to pay customers back for surplus energy they create with the solar panels on their roofs. This incentive will create a more robust market for energy generation.

NEW THIS WEEK **SB 462: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act**
Sponsor: Senator Raskin
Committee Hearing: February 18 at 1pm in Finance
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.

SB 464: Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act
Sponsor: Senator Forehand
Committee Hearing: February 24 at 1pm in Finance
SUPPORT
This bill authorizes local jurisdictions to install safer, more energy efficient road lamps.

SB 515: The Renewables First Act
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Finance
SUPPORT
Requires that Maryland first consider renewable energy for new electricity generation.

SB 558: Long-Term Power Purchasing Agreements
Sponsor: Senator Pinsky
Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1pm in Finance
SUPPORT
Requires the Public Service Commission to enter into long-term purchasing contracts with renewable energy sources.

UP AND COMING BILLS

SB 359: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT
Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.

SB 342: Natural Resources - Oyster Poaching – Hearing
Sponsor: Senator Frosh
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.

NEW THIS WEEK **SB 455: Maryland Efficiency Standards Act – Televisions**
Sponsor: Senator Frosh
SUPPORT
Saves energy and reduces global warming pollution by establishing minimum efficiency standards for televisions sold in Maryland.

NEW THIS WEEK **SB 513: No-Discharge Designation for Maryland Waters**
Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway (At the Request of the Attorney General)
SUPPORT
Reduces nutrient pollution by prohibiting boats from discharging treated and untreated sewage into the waters of the state.

SB 566: Direct Wine Shipping
Sponsors: Senators Raskin and Pugh
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.

SB 653: Keep Coal Ash Out of Our Water
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT

Prohibits certain uses of coal ash and adds stricter requirements to prevent toxic dust from blowing in the wind.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK** **SB 656 and SB 713: Building Energy Disclosure**
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT

SB 656 requires that all government buildings publicly disclose building energy use; SB 713 adds an additional requirement for commercial building owners.

SB 720: Clean Energy Loans
Sponsor: Senator Middleton
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.

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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