



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

# Hot List – Senate

WEEK of February 9, 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/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:**

**Sponsors: Consolidated Transportation Program, SB TBD, Senators Pugh, Harrington**

**Sponsor: Three-Foot Bicycle Safety Bill, SB 51, Senator Raskin**

**Committee Hearing: Already Heard**

**Sponsor: The Shoulder Rule Bill, SB 624, Senator Frosh**

**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 TBD: 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**

**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.

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: 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.

**SB 155: Keep Farmers Farming**

**Sponsor: Senator Glassman**

**Committee Hearing: Already Heard**

***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: February 9 at 1pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

***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 Sponsor: Senator Mooney**

**Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**SB 514 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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**SB 229: Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding**

**Sponsor: Senator Garagiola**

**Committee Hearing: February 10 at 1:00pm 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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**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 1:00pm 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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**SB 355: Net Energy Metering**

**Sponsor: Senator Pinsky**

**Committee Hearing: February 9 at 2pm in Finance**

**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 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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**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.

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK**

**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 239: 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.

### **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.

### **SB TBD: 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.

### **SB TBD: Building Energy Disclosure**

**Sponsor: Senator Lenett**

***SUPPORT***

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

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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.

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