



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS




Hot List – Senate

WEEK of March 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:

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|  | <p>SB 140/SB 141: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget Committee Hearing: Ongoing committee hearings in Budget & Taxation OPPOSE - We urge you to reject the Department of Legislative Services’ proposals cut the 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and limit remaining funds to cover crops, to extend last year’s diversion of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs, to repeal mandated funding for the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, and to eliminate the Maryland Environmental Trust. SUPPORT AS PROPOSED We must oppose cuts to Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, the Heritage Structure Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit), RGGI, and protect funding for our Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning agencies.</p> |
|  | <p>SB 51: Three-Foot Bicycle Safety Bill Sponsor: Senator Raskin Floor Action: Third Reader Passed 43-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters SB 624: The Shoulder Rule Bill Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: Already Heard SB 760: Consolidated Transportation Program Sponsors: Senators Pugh and Harrington Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland (3 bills): In a time of scarce transportation dollars, we need to make sure we are investing state funds wisely. SB 760 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>SB 686: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act Sponsor: Senator Raskin Committee Hearing: Already Heard 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.</p> |

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| <p>Maryland LCV Priority</p> | <p>SB 420: Stormwater Management Sponsor: Senator Colburn Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>OPPOSE</i></p> <p>SB 1082: Stormwater Management Sponsor: Senator DeGrange Committee Hearing: Assigned to Rules <i>OPPOSE</i></p> <p>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 since they allow ample flexibility for redevelopment projects to meet requirements in any number of ways.</p> |
| <p>Maryland LCV Priority</p> | <p>SB 910: Comprehensive Energy Planning Sponsor: Senator Lenett Committee Hearing: March 17 at 1pm in Finance and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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.</p> |

In addition to our 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

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| | <p>SB 29: Preparation of Fishery Management Plans Sponsor: Senator Astle Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i></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) Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i></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> |

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| | <p>SB 224: Solar Drying Bill Sponsor: Senator King Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 & Budget and Taxation <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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: Favorable with Amendments Report by Education, Health and Environmental Affairs <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> |
| | <p>SB 355: Net Energy Metering Sponsor: Senator Pinsky Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 47-0, Assigned Economic Matters <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 537: Net Energy Metering Credit Transfers Sponsor: Senator Mooney Committee Action: Unfavorable Report by Finance, Withdrawn <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Net Metering (2 bills) - SB 355 requires utilities to pay customers back for surplus energy they create with the solar panels on their roofs. SB 537 allows specified not-for-profit customers to transfer specified generation credits accrued from electricity produced from specified renewable sources to specified properties. These incentives will create a more robust market for energy generation.</p> |

COMMITTEE ACTION

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| | <p>SB 20: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses Sponsor: Senator Colburn Committee Action: Recommit to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs <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>SB 37: Oysters – Patent Tongs and Power Dredges Sponsor: Senator Colburn Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>OPPOSE</i> 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.</p> |
| | <p>SB 63: Transit-Oriented Development - Pledge and Use of Tax Increment Revenues – Operations and Maintenance Funding Sponsor: Senator Currie (By Request of the Department of Transportation) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Provides more flexibility to distribute funds to encourage investment in transit-oriented development, encouraging smart growth and sustainable communities.</p> |
| | <p>SB 155: Estate Tax Exclusion for Family Farm in Preservation Sponsor: Senator Glassman Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 592: Estate Tax Exclusion for Qualified Agricultural Property Sponsor: Senator Garagiola Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 790: Estate Tax Exclusions for Family Farms Subject to Agricultural Preservation Easements Sponsor: Senator Garagiola Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Keep Farmers Farming (3 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>SB 215: High Performance Building Act Sponsor: Senator Frosh 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> |

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| | <p>SB 277: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></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>SB 282: Qualified Submerged Energy Lines Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: Already Heard in Finance; Re-assigned jointly to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>This bill would help facilitate development of offshore wind energy off the coast of Maryland.</p> |
| | <p>SB 285: Sustainable Communities Act Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Action: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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>SB 342: Natural Resources - Oyster Poaching – Hearing Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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>SB 350: Transit-Oriented Development - Expansion of Geographic Area Sponsor: Senator Currie Committee Hearing: Cancelled <i>OPPOSE</i></p> <p>Expands the geographic area within which a specified project could qualify as a transit-oriented development (TOD). This would weaken TOD, a targeted smart growth program, and would steer precious resources to less efficient locations.</p> |
| NEW THIS WEEK | <p>SB 353: Brominated Flame Retardants - Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether (DecaBDE) Sponsor: Senator Lenett Committee Hearing: March 16 at 1pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</i></p> <p>SB 556: Environment - Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether - Prohibitions Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway Committee Hearing: March 16 at 1pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</i></p> <p>DecaBDE (2 bills): Both of these bills prohibit the use of flame-retardant DecaBDE from nearly all products sold or produced in Maryland by January 1, 2011.</p> |

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| | <p>SB 359: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting Sponsor: Senator Lenett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.</p> |
| | <p>SB 455: Maryland Efficiency Standards Act – Televisions Sponsor: Senator Pinsky Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Saves energy and reduces global warming pollution by establishing minimum efficiency standards for televisions sold in Maryland.</p> |
| | <p>SB 462: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act Sponsor: Senator Raskin 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>SB 464: Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act Sponsor: Senator Forehand Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> This bill authorizes local jurisdictions to install safer, more energy efficient road lamps.</p> |
| | <p>SB 504: Lead Paint Dust Testing Bill Sponsor: Senator Gladden Committee Hearing: Already Heard <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>SB 513: No-Discharge Designation for Maryland Waters Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway (At the Request of the Attorney General) Committee Hearing: March 16 at 1pm in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i> Reduces nutrient pollution by prohibiting boats from discharging treated and untreated sewage into the waters of the state.</p> |
| | <p>SB 566: Direct Wine Shipping Sponsors: Senators Raskin and Pugh <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: March 17 at 1pm in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs 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> |

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| | <p>SB 569: Biomass and Biofuels - In-State Production Incentives Sponsors: Senator Middleton 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>SB 653: Keep Coal Ash Out of Our Water Sponsor: Senator Lenett 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> |
| | <p>SB 656: Public Building Energy Disclosure Sponsor: Senator Lenett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 713: Public and Commercial Buildings Energy Disclosure Sponsor: Senator Lenett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 952: Residential Home Sales Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway Committee Hearing: March 25 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Energy Disclosure (3 bills) - SB 656 requires that all government buildings publicly disclose building energy use; SB 713 adds an additional requirement for commercial building owners; and SB 952 requires residential homeowners to publically disclose utility use at time of listing.</p> |
| | <p>SB 720: Clean Energy Loans Sponsor: Senator Middleton Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>SB 775: Road Salt Management Programs Sponsor: Senator Kramer <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: Already Heard 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> |
| | <p>SB 859: Arsenic in Chicken Feed Sponsor: Senator Pinsky <i>SUPPORT</i> Committee Hearing: March 16 at 1pm in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Prohibiting a person from using, selling, or distributing poultry feed that contains roxarsone or any other additive that contains arsenic.</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:

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| <p>SB 407: Maryland Open Government Act Sponsor: Senator King Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT 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> |
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BILLS THROUGH THE HOUSE CHAMBER

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| <p>HB 89/SB 3: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees Sponsor: Senator Klausmeier HB 89 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader on House Floor 138-0, Assigned to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs SB 3 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader on Senate Floor 42-0, Assigned to Environmental Matters 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>HB 33/SB 213: Child Care Articles and Toys Containing Bisphenol-A (“BPA”) Sponsor: Senator Frosh HB 33 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader on House Floor 137-0, Assigned to Finance SB 213 Floor Action: Passed Third Reader on Senate Floor 46-0, Assigned to Health & Government Operations SUPPORT Prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of toys or child care articles containing BPA, requiring the use of the least toxic alternative.</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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