



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**

Board of Directors

J. Charles Fox, *Chair*
Steve Linhard, *Treasurer*
Nancy Davis, *Past Chair*
J. Elizabeth Garraway, PhD
Terry Harris
Frederick Hoover
Betsy Loyless
Kevin Rackstraw
Margie Roswell
Dru Schmidt-Perkins
Terri Shuck
Karen White

Advisory Committee

Ajax Eastman
Marion Edey
Senator Bernie Fowler
Governor Harry Hughes
Edmund A. Stanley, Jr.
Joan Seward Willey

Cindy Schwartz
Executive Director

January 30, 2008

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3W Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support Senate Bill 208, "High Performance Buildings Act"

Dear Chairman Currie and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to join with other conservation groups in urging your support of Senate Bill 208, "High Performance Buildings Act."

SB 208 would require that new school construction and certain new buildings financed by the state be built as high performance buildings. Having our state government lead by example would go a long way in making green buildings the norm rather than the exception.

High performance buildings use economically sound and environmentally sensitive construction, materials and site-design techniques. They are designed to efficiently use natural resources for minimal environmental impact and economic cost. High performance buildings achieve significant reductions in energy and water use.

In addition to environmental benefits, high performance buildings also offer significant economic benefits. The incremental cost to build green is falling, now estimated to be only an additional 1-3%. These costs are quickly made up in reduced utility expenses and increase worker and student productivity.

High performance buildings save taxpayer dollars, are healthier for employees, and conserve our natural resources.

We urge a favorable report on SB 208.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schwartz
Executive Director

For more than 25 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.