



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – SENATE

WEEK of February 4, 2008

The **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** is pleased to present the “Hot List” – a detailed list of the environmental community’s highest priority legislation for *this week*. Every Tuesday, we will e-mail and distribute it by hand 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 Liz Nelson at enelson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855 extension 3.

COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 213: Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and Nonpoint Source Fund
Education Health and Environmental Affairs – **HEARING ON WEDNESDAY**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund will allow Maryland to significantly increase its ability to meet the goals outlined in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement



SB 204: Maryland Transit Administration - Transit-Oriented Development
Finance Committee – **HEARING ON WEDNESDAY**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is a critical part of the solution to curb global warming
- ◆ TOD makes best use of transit investment, creates places where more daily trips can be done without driving, more efficiently uses land resources, and is a cornerstone for Maryland’s smart growth efforts

SB 207: Solar and Geothermal Tax Incentive and Grant Program
Budget & Taxation and Finance Committees – **HEARING ON WEDNESDAY**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ This program has been successful in urging consumers to install small-scale solar and geothermal projects at home
- ◆ Raising the caps on these grants will make it easier for more homeowners to take advantage of this program
- ◆ Increasing our use of clean, renewable energy like solar and geothermal is necessary to curbing global warming

SB 208: High Performance Buildings Act
Budget & Taxation Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ High performance buildings are designed to efficiently use natural resources for minimal environmental impact and economic cost and allow for significant reductions in energy and water use
- ◆ Having our state government lead by example would go a long way to making green buildings be the norm and not the exception

Over, please

IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH

A few of the environmental community's top bills have been filed. They are:



SB 309: Global Warming Solutions - Reductions in Greenhouse Gases

The Global Warming Solutions bill establishes limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Maryland, creates timelines for state agencies to design cost-effective programs to meet the emission limits, and creates a cap-and-trade system so that companies can continue to search for the cheapest ways to comply.



SB 205: EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 & SB 268: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program

Investment Program

Hearings are February 12

SB 205 requires Maryland to reduce its per capita energy use 15 percent by 2015.

SB 268 ensures Maryland Energy Administration funding through the auction of carbon credits for full implementation of SB 205.



Legislation addressing the fourth priority, **Critical Area reform**, is expected soon.

In addition to these 4 priority issues, we will also be working on a number of other bills this session. If you have a bill you'd like us to submit testimony on or include in the "Hot List," please let Liz know at enelson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855 x3.

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.**

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