



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – SENATE

WEEK of March 17, 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.

FLOOR ACTION

SB 309: Global Warming Solutions - Reductions in Greenhouse Gases

POSITION: **SUPPORT** WITHOUT WEAKENING AMENDMENTS

- ◆ Global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time
- ◆ Everything we do to address global warming will have immediate benefits to the state – creating jobs, lowering costs to consumers and businesses through energy efficiency upgrades, and making our power system more reliable by diversifying our energy sources



SB 710: Environment - Phosphorus - Dishwashing Detergent

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

- ◆ This bill delays the implementation date of the phosphorus ban passed last year
- ◆ A delay of just six months equals an additional 7.5 tons of phosphorus entering our waters

SB 590: Environment - Statute of Limitations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

- ◆ Environmental enforcement needs to be a greater priority for Maryland if we intend to make progress in protecting the public’s health and the air, land, and waters of the state
- ◆ Environmental violations are notoriously difficult to detect and can be quite difficult to prosecute

COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 977: Maryland Clean Energy Center

Finance Committee – **HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

- ◆ SB 977 establishes a Clean Energy Center in Maryland – these centers have been helpful in a number of other states in fostering creativity and development of clean, renewable energy and serving as a clean energy business incubator

SB 205: EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 *and*

SB 268: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program

Finance Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

- ◆ SB 205 requires Maryland to reduce its per capita energy use 15 percent by 2015 and SB 268 ensures Maryland Energy Administration funding through the auction of carbon credits
- ◆ On average, consumers save two to three dollars for every dollar invested in energy efficiency



SB 844: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program -Administrative and Enforcement Provisions

Education Health and Environmental Affairs – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

- ◆ Revises the Critical Area Act to provide the Critical Area Commission with the tools it needs to better administer and enforce the law, resulting in reduced sediment and contaminated runoff, cleaner water, and improved habitat for the Bays’ fish and crabs



SB 209: Renewable Portfolio Standard Percentage Requirements - Acceleration

Finance Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ Maryland should put itself ahead of the curve on creating clean energy industries
- ◆ This will make our electricity system more reliable through diversifying our energy sources, promote economic development, and clean up the environment

SB 204: Maryland Transit Administration - Transit-Oriented Development

Finance Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

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 – **ALREADY HEARD**

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

SB 208: High Performance Buildings Act

Budget & Taxation Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

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

SB 417: Public Service Commission - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs and Services - Prohibition of Surcharge Without Customer Consent

Finance Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *OPPOSE*

- ◆ Energy efficiency is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ The opt-in programs outlined in this bill will not help Maryland reach the goal set of a 15% reduction by 2015

SB 342: Procurement - Flexible-Fuel Vehicles - Alternative Fuel Requirements

Education Health and Environmental Affairs – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ An increased use of biofuels reduces our consumption of fossil fuels while providing greater economic opportunity for the farmers who produce them

SB 662: Agricultural Land Transfer Tax - Rates and Distribution of Revenue

Budget & Taxation Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ SB 662 offers Maryland three innovative and effective tools to further the state's preservation efforts

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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