



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – SENATE

WEEK of March 24, 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 Cindy Schwartz at cschwartz@mdlcv.org

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AS OF 10:30 AM ON MARCH 25TH.

FLOOR ACTION

SB 204: Maryland Transit Administration - Transit-Oriented Development

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

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

HB 117: Real Property - Installation of Solar Panels - Clarification and Solar Easement

Judicial Proceedings Committee – **HEARING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25**

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

- ◆ HB 117 removes barriers to residential installation of small-scale solar energy systems
- ◆ Eliminating this hurdle is key to get these solar projects off the ground
- ◆ Greater use of clean, renewable energy like solar will help Maryland curb global warming emissions

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



Over, please

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 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 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

SB 977: Maryland Clean Energy Center

Finance Committee – **ALREADY HEARD**

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

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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