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February 28, 2008

Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2W Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support Senate Bill 246, "Agriculture – Fertilizer – Phosphorous Content Reduction"**

Dear Chairman Conway 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 246, "Agriculture – Fertilizer – Phosphorous Content Reduction."

SB 246 makes major strides in reducing the amount of phosphorous in fertilizer runoff from farms. Phosphorous is one of the major pollutants in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Maryland General Assembly ban of laundry detergents containing phosphorus in the early 1980s resulted in significant decreases in phosphorus pollution in Maryland waterways. Last year's passage of the dishwashing detergent phosphorus ban was another important step. Please take the next one by supporting SB 246.

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.*

Cindy Schwartz  
Executive Director