



Maryland LCV's Executive Director Karla Raettig Moving to National Environmental Position

Today the Maryland League of Conservation Voters announces Executive Director Karla Raettig's resignation from the organization.

April 30, 2019

Following 8 years of accomplishments leading Maryland's premier environmental group, Maryland LCV, we ask you to join us in thanking **Karla Raettig** for her service as our executive director and join us in congratulating her on her new position as the executive director of National Wildlife Federation Action Fund in Washington, DC., a return to her roots.

Karla moves to the national environmental stage leaving a terrific staff, expanded donor base, and having established a reputation as a powerful political force. The 2019 legislative session saw political wins for the environment, and Karla has set the organization up for continued success, and we are so grateful for all she has done.

"I've had the opportunity to lead Maryland LCV for almost eight years and have watched the organization and the Conservation Voter Movement [CVM] grow and thrive," reflected Raettig. "In this last year, Maryland LCV has achieved electoral and legislative success because of a fantastic, capable team. I am excited for the organization as it enters its next chapter and I'm excited for the CVM at this time of opportunity."

Among Karla's many milestones, Maryland LCV was a lead advocate on:

- opening Maryland's coast to the development of offshore wind
- banning the practice of hydraulic fracking in Maryland
- entering Maryland into the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- passing the first statewide ban on Neonicotinoid-based pesticides
- passing the first statewide ban on styrofoam food service products
- passing laws strengthening county watershed protection and restoration programs to reduce pollution, and fighting off numerous attempts to roll back and weaken stormwater regulations





Additionally, under her leadership, Maryland LCV doubled its staff, growing from 5 in 2011 to 10 staff members today. Organizational initiatives have included the development of Chispa Maryland, which has become a model for organizing in urban communities/communities of color and a national leader among partner organizations.

Karla leaves the organization with a dedicated staff and board that are poised to move into the fifth decade of Maryland LCV's history with increased power to effect strong, visionary environmental policies. Over the next several months, a newly established committee will conduct a national search to identify a new Maryland LCV executive director.

In the interim, Maryland LCV is also announcing that Maryland League of Conservation Voter's Education Fund Board Chair **Chuck Porcari** will serve as interim executive director during this search period. Owner of Prince George's County-based Seneca Park LLC, a policy and communications consulting firm, Chuck has been a board member of Maryland LCV since 2007, serving as political director and vice chair, respectively on the Maryland LCV board, before assuming the chair of the Maryland LCV Education Fund board in 2016.

Karla will be greatly missed by the staff, board, and Conservation Voter Movement partners alike. We look forward to following the success of her career and are hopeful and excited for the next chapter of Maryland LCV and Maryland LCV Education Fund as we continue our important work to pass strong environmental laws.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Interim Director Chuck Porcari at cporcari@mdlcv.org.

Please take a moment to send your best wishes to Karla at board@mdlcv.org.

Thank you for being a Maryland Conservation Voter,

Ed Hatcher & Chuck Porcari

Board of Director Chairs, Maryland League of Conservation Voters and Maryland LCV Education Fund, respectively

