# REPORT CARD: PARRIS GLENDENING, Governor, State of Maryland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OVERALL GRADE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries &amp; Wildlife</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Accomplishments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veto of the voluntary VEIP legislation</td>
<td>Needs to oppose the InterCounty Connector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Growth Initiative &amp; Rural Legacy Program</td>
<td>Work to stop Chapman’s Landing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlands Preservation</td>
<td>Improve Wetlands protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beltwoods &amp; Myrtle Point acquisitions</td>
<td>Continue efforts on enforcement of environmental laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crab conservation &amp; oyster restoration</td>
<td>Revise the Pesticide Advisory Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed: Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Governor Glendening ran for office in 1994 on a platform that emphasized environmental protection. In campaign publications and in televised ads, candidate Glendening made the environment a central concern. After a somewhat rocky start, the Administration is making significant progress in some very important areas, especially in recent months, but there's room for improvement in others. Although several major issues have been resolved favorably for the environment, there are several issues that remain to be decided. Overall, the governor's environmental record is regarded favorably with room for improvement. On this first-ever report card, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters gives Governor Glendening a "B"

**Overall Grade**  
**B**

**Subjects:**
- Administration  
  **C+**
- Air  
  **A**
- Fisheries & Wildlife  
  **A**
- Land  
  **B**
- Legislation  
  **A**
- Transportation  
  **D**
- Water  
  **B-**

**Comments:**

The Governor earns high marks for his environmental and political leadership on his Smart Growth initiatives this past year. And the Governor gained respect from the League for his courageous veto to keep the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program on track. Indeed, although previous legislative sessions had been less than stellar, the Glendening Administration showed strong pro-environment support in the 1997 legislative session. Environmentalists had been particularly frustrated by the administration's lack of attention to environmental enforcement, but in recent months, the Glendening administration has undertaken several important and high-profile enforcement actions that seem to indicate renewed interest. Despite all the good news and positive trends, the Administration is faced with big decisions on several potentially devastating projects, specifically Chapman's Landing in Southern Maryland and the Intercounty Connector Highway in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, which, until the projects are rejected, may prevent the Governor from earning an "A."
Subject: Administration

Grade: C+

Comments:
In this catch-all category, the Governor gets mixed marks. The Administration gets high marks for staff and cabinet appointments, and it gets generally high marks for appointments to Boards and Commissions. The Administration's efforts on enforcement, however, have been poor until recently.

Accomplishments:
The League was pleased with the Governor's cabinet appointments of Secretary of the Department of Environment Jane Nishida and Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources John Griffin. Environmentalists enjoy a good open working relationship with both Departments due in no small part to these two Secretaries. The Governor has appointed key environmental activists to various commissions and continues to reach out to the environmental community for appointments as vacancies occur. And, as evidence the Governor intends to shuffle the often stacked deck on many of the existing Boards, the Governor has promised to revamp the Pesticide Advisory Council so that it will no longer be so heavily weighted toward the pesticide industry and heavy pesticide users.

Needs Improvement:
The League and other groups have been frustrated with the lack of efforts in enforcement of environmental laws. Until this past year, enforcement of air pollution, water pollution, and wetlands laws diminished to nearly nothing. In recent months though, the Administration seems to be showing renewed interest in enforcement with action in several high-profile cases. The League and advocates for children have also been frustrated with the administration's disorganized and delayed implementation of the lead poisoning prevention program. Finally, environmentalists, most of whom are volunteers, along with other local volunteer activists have a tough time with a long-standing system of mostly daytime meetings of state Boards and Commissions. The daytime hours block participation by citizens who need to work, but allows participation by the moneyed interests who can afford to pay representatives to attend.

Subject: Air Quality

Grade: A

Comments:
The Governor's record on air quality is good. He should keep up the good work.

Accomplishments:
The League is particularly pleased with the political courage exhibited in the veto of legislation that would have delayed full implementation of the Vehicle Emission Inspection Program. The Governor's difficult political decision was the right one.
The Governor also deserves credit for the outreach and education program on ground ozone pollution -- in particular, the "ozone map" developed with the American Lung Association and the launch of the "ozone action days" system with participating businesses. Under Governor Glendening, the state has been active in promoting alternative fueled vehicles and renewable energy. The Glendening Administration has also been aggressive to protect citizens from the hazards of tobacco smoke in the workplace. Governor Glendening can be proud of the fact that Maryland finally met the federal standard for Carbon Monoxide pollution under his watch in 1995, after more than 13 years of effort.

Needs Improvement:
State management and promotion of the VEIP program could have been better, possibly defusing much of the controversy with this program. On the national level, the Governor should join other northeastern Governors, including Republicans, in the support of the tougher EPA standards for smog and soot.

Subject: Fisheries & Wildlife
Grade: A

Comments:
On these issues that provide Maryland with economic and recreational benefits in hundreds of millions of dollars, the Governor's record on fisheries and wildlife is excellent.

Accomplishments:
Governor Glendening deserves a good grade for his protection of living resources particularly those in the Chésapeake Bay. The Governor exhibited leadership in blue crab conservation, he strongly supported oyster restoration, he continues to advance sound management of striped bass. The Governor also vetoed the snapping turtle bill.

Subject: Land
Grade: B

Comments:
The Governor's record in protecting land resources is reasonably good but perhaps incomplete. The Glendening administration deserves high marks for a number of programs and initiatives but the proposed mega-development of Chapman's Landing in Southern Maryland remains a big question mark for the Governor.

Accomplishments:
Although environmentalists were hoping for a stronger package than was finally passed, the Governor's Smart Growth and Rural Legacy initiatives passed in the most recent session of
the General Assembly show the Governor's understanding of issues relating to sprawl and the need to protect farmland and forests. In addition, the Governor's efforts on Wildlands have resulted in more than doubling the amount of pristine land permanently protected in Maryland. The Governor supported negotiations and helped with funding the purchase of Belt Woods in Prince Georges County and helped acquire Myrtle Point in Southern Maryland. The Governor also deserves credit for his commitment to increase the number of miles of forest buffer along Maryland stream banks by some 600 miles.

Needs Improvement:
The progress and good intentions shown in Governor Glendening's other actions would be threatened by allowing the proposed development at Chapman's Landing. A massive proposal, the development represents the worst in sprawl - bad local planning, leapfrog sprawl, potential traffic nightmares, and destruction of sensitive natural areas. The Governor needs to act to stop this development before it goes any further.

Subject: Legislation
Grade: A

Comments:
The first half of Gov. Glendening's term was somewhat disappointing. Not only were there few new environmental initiatives, the Administration took anti-environmental positions too often. The most serious problems were on key points in early Brownfields legislation and on bills regarding Environmental Audit and Privilege. In fact, on the latter the Administration actually supported serious weakening amendments. The administration also took no position on the top priority issue of citizen standing. (A notable exception to the frustrating earlier sessions was the passage of the 1996 Wildlands Bill. In this fight the Governor held his ground and was successful in protecting thousands of acres permanently.) However, 1997 was a completely different year. The governor and environmentalists were on the same team for most issues and the issues were big.

Accomplishments:
The governor deserves top marks for his strong and tenacious defense of the Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) culminating in his veto of weakening legislation. He also took a tough stance on the "Smart Growth" and Rural Legacy package, including holding up the supplemental budget until passage of the package. After difficult negotiations, the Brownfields legislation contained important environmental protections. The Governor's support (and signature) can be seen on bills adding new Wildlands acreage and helping stop a long-threatened Baltimore incinerator. His administration was active and helpful promoting new environmental enforcement legislation and on the issue of parent's right-to-know about pesticide use in schools.
Needs Improvement:
The governor needs to be supportive of an expanded toxics "right-to-know" bill that his administration opposed last year. But generally, the League hopes the Administration continues to work as they did in 1997 rather than in previous sessions.

Subject: Transportation
Grade: D

Comments:
The Governor's record needs the most improvement in this category. Although the administration makes the necessary effort to support mass transit and carpooling, the administration seems to be focused mostly on road-building – moving more cars more miles in more traffic jams rather than moving people and goods efficiently.

Accomplishments:
The Administration has been generally supportive of the MARC system, Baltimore's Light Rail, and other transit systems. The Administration has also promoted and developed park-and-rides to assist transit commuters.

Needs Improvement:
The modest positive efforts are all that keep the Glendening Administration from getting a failing grade in this category. Of major concern is the expensive and destructive Intercounty Connector proposed in Montgomery and Prince Georges County. The ICC, with major impacts on streams, parks, and wetlands, and numerous impacts from the sprawl and traffic it will generate, is both economically and environmentally unwise. The Governor should stop this highway.

Other highway projects supported by the administration, like the Waldorf Bypass, will also add to Maryland's sprawl and traffic problems. The highway projects indicate the Administration's priorities need to be reevaluated when it comes to the impacts of transportation on environmental protection.

Subject: Water
Grade: B-

Comments:
The Governor's record on water quality and water resource protection is mixed. In some matters, the Glendening Administration has been strong and unwavering in support for environmental protection. But in other matters, the final grades may not be in.
Accomplishments:

The Governor has been firm in his efforts to restrict dumping of dredge spoil in the Chesapeake Bay's deep trough, and he continues to work to find alternative disposal sites. The Governor has also worked to protect Maryland groundwater from potential dangers of rubble landfills by pushing regulations requiring liners and leachate collection systems.

Needs Improvement:

Governor Glendening is committed to the state's goal of a 40% reduction of nutrients to the Chesapeake Bay by the year 2000. But this important goal seems to be slipping beyond the Administration's grasp, so the Governor may need to redouble efforts to achieve the necessary reductions. With regard to wetlands, the Governor has announced a very ambitious wetlands restoration goal for which he should be commended. But the protection and regulation of existing natural wetlands has diminished and needs to be stronger. In fact, several environmental groups are pursuing legal action with the Army Corps of Engineers for more enforcement and wetlands protection.

The Governor has expressed a goal of a "toxics-free" Chesapeake Bay with a 50% reduction in toxic pollution and a 75% reduction of toxic pollution of special concern to the Chesapeake Bay by the year 2000. Again these goals may be beyond the Governor's reach unless the Administration steps up its efforts. The Glendening Administration needs to set pollution limits (known as TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Loads) for priority watersheds in the state. The Chesapeake Bay Tributaries, Maryland's Coastal Bays and Baltimore's Harbor all await TMDL action. Since it must be noted that Governor Glendening is no different on this issue than the other 49 governors in the U.S. who have yet to establish TMDL limits, this is perhaps an opportunity for the Governor to show national leadership on this issue.