Maryland League of Conservation Voters
The Political Voice of the Environment

Hot List - WEEK of March 22, 2016

UPCOMING BILLS FOR FLOOR ACTION IN THE SENATE

SB 190 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2017) ***Monitor*** We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. On first blush, the Governor seems to have refrained from further borrowing from Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund, however we must remain vigilant in protecting these programs as well as critical resources needed for the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy to enforce laws.	**Administration** Committee Hearing: Favorable with Amendments Report Final Senate Status: Third Reading Passed (46-0)

UPCOMING BILLS IN BUDGET AND TAXATION

SB 834 Income Tax Credit - Energy Storage Systems ***Support*** This bill would provide residential and commercial tax credits for the purchase and use of energy storage systems, in a hope to increase the use of renewables and to make Maryland's energy consumption a more environmentally friendly. The use of storage systems would help prevent the waste of unused energy, ultimately decreasing our need to burn coal, and maximizing our use of renewables like solar.	**Guzzone** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
SB 908 Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 ***Support*** Maryland needs an open and objective system for making its transportation funding decisions. This bill creates a scoring system for major transportation projects.	**DeGrange; Astle; Conway; Ferguson; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SB 927 - **MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY** Program Open Space Trust Fund Act of 2016 ***Support*** The legislation proposed for 2016 will create the Preservation Trust Fund - a lock-box like protection for Program Open Space. The legislation requires re-payment of previous diversions and canceling pre-authorized diversions of transfer tax revenues established in BRFAs for FY2017 and FY2018, and establishes clear, consistent, and very limited circumstances when funds can be diverted from the Preservation Trust Fund.	**Middleton; Astle; Benson; Currie; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
SB 1035 Transportation - Transit Service - State Grants and Farebox Recovery Rate ***Support*** This bill removes the requirement to show that 35% of the costs of operating a transit system is covered by the fares paid by passengers.	**Madaleno; Conway; Currie; Feldman; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
HB 462 - **MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY - FROM HOUSE CHAMBER** Program Open Space - Transfer Tax Repayment - Use of Funds ***Support as Amended*** This bill rolls in the priorities from HB1464 (Gaines): Program Open Space Trust Fund Act of 2016. It outlines that full cash funding for Program Open Space that will start in 2019, with all repayments completed by 2029 – by which time the program will have $270 million more than it would have received with no bill. These repayments include the $90 million allocated as outlined in FY2016, FY2017, and FY2018.	**Administration; Adams; Afzali; et al.** Budget and Taxation Committee Hearing: March 24 @ 1:00 PM Final House Status: Third Reading Passed (139-0)

UPCOMING BILLS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SB 367 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act ***Support*** The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.	**Ferguson; Benson; Guzzone; Lee; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SB 496 - **MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY** Poultry Litter Management Act ***Support*** The bill would require poultry companies to take responsibility for manure produced by their chickens. Farmers would still be able to keep and use any manure for which they have a state approved plan. This would result in Maryland taxpayers and farmers no longer bearing the sole burden of reducing this pollution.	**Madaleno; Benson; Conway; Feldman; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
SB 607 Agriculture - Cattle, Swine, and Poultry - Use of Antimicrobial Drugs ***Support*** This bill stops the irresponsible use of human antibiotics in raising livestock, but allows them to be used to treat sick animals and control outbreaks. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are a serious health crisis that requires reducing all uses of antibiotics. 70 percent of human antibiotics are sold for use in animals and this bill seeks to cut that number.	**Pinsky; Conway; Ferguson; Madaleno; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

UPCOMING BILLS IN FINANCE

SB 367 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act ***Support*** The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.	**Ferguson; Benson; Guzzone; Lee; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
SB 726 Maryland Clean Energy Center - Clean Energy Technology Funding ***Support*** This bill creates a $30 million public investment fund target to attract a more significant commitment of private sector capital into the market sector. The fund and related financing programs would be managed by the Maryland Clean Energy Center. Revenue from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction carbon allowance auction proceeds, currently in reserve but unappropriated, are directed to seed this dedicated investment fund.	**Mathias; Benson; Feldman; Guzzone; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SB 921 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY** Clean Energy Jobs - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Revisions ***Support*** A critical component to the reduction of greenhouse gases is increasing the State's sourcing of energy from renewable sources. Current state goals aim to source 20% renewable sources by the year 2022. The Clean Energy Jobs Act seeks to increase the goal to 25% renewables by the year 2020. The bill also includes a significant investment in workforce development for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses in the renewable energy fields.	**Pugh; Benson; Feldman; Madaleno; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

UPCOMING BILLS FOR FLOOR ACTION IN THE HOUSE

SB 190 - **FROM SENATE CHAMBER** Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2017) ***Monitor*** We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. On first blush, the Governor seems to have refrained from further borrowing from Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund, however we must remain vigilant in protecting these programs as well as critical resources needed for the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy to enforce laws.	**Administration** Committee Hearing: Favorable with Amendments Report Final Senate Status: Third Reading Passed (46-0)
HB 211 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY** Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016) ***Support as Amended*** As amended, this bill removes neonicotinoid pesticides for residential use except when used by a certified applicator. Neonicotinoid pesticides have been linked to devastating loss rates of bees and other pollinators.	**Healey; B. Robinson; Beidle; Beitzel; et al.** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (97-38)
HB 462 - **MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY** Program Open Space - Transfer Tax Repayment - Use of Funds ***Support as Amended*** This bill rolls in the priorities from HB1464 (Gaines): Program Open Space Trust Fund Act of 2016. It outlines that full cash funding for Program Open Space that will start in 2019, with all repayments completed by 2029 – by which time the program will have $270 million more than it would have received with no bill. These repayments include the $90 million allocated as outlined in FY2016, FY2017, and FY2018.	**Administration; Adams; Afzali; et al.** Budget and Taxation Committee Hearing: March 24 @ 1:00 PM Final House Status: Third Reading Passed (139-0)

HB 610 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization ***Support*** The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.	**Barve; A. Miller; Beidle; Carr; et al.** Final House Status: Third Reading Passed (101-37)
HB 1010 Maryland Transit Administration Oversight and Planning Board ***Support*** Creates an oversight and planning board for the Maryland Transit Administration.	**Lierman; A. Miller; B. Barnes; B. Robinson; et al.** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (83-52)
HB 1012 Income Tax Credit - Commuter Benefits - Eligibility and Credit Amount ***Support*** Increase the maximum credit allowed under the Maryland Commuter Tax benefit from $50 to $100.	**McCray; A. Washington; Afzali; B. Robinson; et al.** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (130-3)
HB 1013 Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 ***Support*** Maryland needs an open and objective system for making its transportation funding decisions. This bill creates a scoring system for major transportation projects.	**Beidle; B. Barnes; Branch; Brooks; et al.** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (84-51)
HB 1106 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY** Clean Energy - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Revisions ***Support as Amended*** A critical component to the reduction of greenhouse gases is increasing the State's sourcing of energy from renewable sources. Current state goals aim to source 20% renewable sources by the year 2022. The Clean Energy Jobs Act seeks to increase the goal to 25% renewables by the year 2020.	**Frick; A. Miller; A. Washington; B. Barnes; et al.** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (92-43)

HB 1328 Environment - Lead and Mercury Wheel Weights - Prohibited ***Support*** Would ban the sale and use of mercury and lead wheel weights in the State of Maryland. This ban applies to installation, sales and repairs of mercury and lead wheel weights in the State of Maryland, and new and used vehicle sales in the State of Maryland. Lead and mercury weights are used in the auto industry market to balance tires of vehicles. At the end of a vehicle's life, they can fall off tires and then break down and contaminate soil, wash into sewers and local waterways, or end up being transported to municipal landfills and incinerators.	**Lam; S. Robinson; Tarlau** House Floor Action: Third Reading Passed (117-18)

UPCOMING BILLS IN APPROPRIATIONS

HB 150 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2017) ***Monitor*** We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. On first blush, the Governor seems to have refrained from further borrowing from Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund, however we must remain vigilant in protecting these programs as well as critical resources needed for the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy to enforce laws.	**Administration**
HB 891 Maryland Transit Administration - Farebox Recovery Rate - Repeal ***Support*** Removes the requirement to show that 35% of the costs of operating a transit system is covered by the fares paid by passengers.	**Lierman; A. Miller; Anderson; B. Robinson; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

UPCOMING BILLS IN ECONOMIC MATTERS

SB 323 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY - FROM SENATE CHAMBER** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization ***Support*** The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.	**Pinsky; Benson; Brochin; Conway; et al.** Final Senate Status: Third Reading Passed (38-8)

HB 705 Maryland Clean Energy Center - Clean Energy Technology Funding ***Support*** This bill creates a $30 million public investment fund target to attract a more significant commitment of private sector capital into the market sector. The fund and related financing programs would be managed by the Maryland Clean Energy Center. Revenue from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction carbon allowance auction proceeds, currently in reserve but unappropriated, are directed to seed this dedicated investment fund.	**Davis; Barve; Clippinger; Gaines; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
HB 862 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act ***Support*** The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.	**Frush; A. Washington; B. Barnes; Brooks; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

UPCOMING BILLS IN ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

HB 599 - **MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY** Poultry Litter Management Act ***Support*** The bill would require poultry companies to take responsibility for manure produced by their chickens. Farmers would still be able to keep and use any manure for which they have a state approved plan. This would result in Maryland taxpayers and farmers no longer bearing the sole burden of reducing this pollution.	**Lam; A. Washington; B. Barnes; B. Robinson; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
HB 829 Agriculture - Cattle, Swine, and Poultry - Use of Antimicrobial Drugs ***Support*** This bill stops the irresponsible use of human antibiotics in raising livestock, but allows them to be used to treat sick animals and control outbreaks. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are a serious health crisis that requires reducing all uses of antibiotics. 70 percent of human antibiotics are sold for use in animals and this bill seeks to cut that number.	**Robinson, S.; Beidle; Carr; Ebersole; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard

HB 862 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act ***Support*** The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.	**Frush; A. Washington; B. Barnes; Brooks; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
HB 1026 Maryland Transit Administration - Fares - Calculation and Public Comment ***Support*** Clarifies how and when transit fares are increase.	**Lam; A. Miller; Beidle; Fraser-Hidalgo; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard
HB 1197 Prince George's County - Forest Conservation Act - Net Tract Area PG/MC 114-16 ***Oppose*** This bill, as amended, would exempt certain properties in the County from the Forest Conservation Act and alter definitions in the Act as applied in the County to reduce mitigation requirements.	**Montgomery County Delegation; Prince George's County Delegation**
SB 198 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY - FROM SENATE CHAMBER** Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016) ***Support with Amendment*** As amended, this bill removes neonicotinoid pesticides for residential use except when used by a certified applicator. Neonicotinoid pesticides have been linked to devastating loss rates of bees and other pollinators. We support an amendment which would remove language that could pre-empt local or county laws	**Nathan-Pulliam; Benson; Ferguson; Guzzone; et al.** Final Senate Status: Third Reading Passed (32-14)
SB 323 - **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY - FROM SENATE CHAMBER** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization ***Support*** The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.	**Pinsky; Benson; Brochin; Conway; et al.** Final Senate Status: Third Reading Passed (38-8)

UPCOMING BILLS IN WAYS AND MEANS

HB 386 Income Tax Credit - Energy Storage Systems ***Support*** This bill would provide residential and commercial tax credits for the purchase and use of energy storage systems, in a hope to increase the use of renewables and to make Maryland's energy consumption more environmentally friendly. The use of storage systems would help prevent the waste of unused energy, ultimately decreasing our need to burn coal, and maximizing our use of renewables like solar.	**Reznik; Barve; Fraser-Hidalgo; Kramer; et al.** Committee Hearing: Already Heard