The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to present the "Hot List" – a detailed list of priority environmental legislation moving through the Maryland General Assembly. This will be emailed to every legislator every Tuesday and will also be available online on our website (www.mdlcv.org). We hope you find this weekly communication helpful and instructive as you tackle important environmental bills this session. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Harbeson at kharbeson@mdlcv.org or 410-952-8100

**MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**Appropriations (APP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL #</th>
<th>HB6/SB92</th>
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<td>TITLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
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<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>The State's budget surplus for the 2023 fiscal year and the expectation of federal funding dedicated to climate and water quality improvements create an unprecedented opportunity for the state to advance its goals for greenhouse gas reduction and to meet the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Blueprint, while honoring the principles of Justice 40. Maryland LCV urges the inclusion of a $22 million appropriation into the Zero-Emission Vehicle School Bus Transition Grant Program, to provide support for selected school districts in transitioning their diesel school bus fleets to clean electric school buses.</td>
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<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>In Maryland, more than 650,000 students ride in diesel school buses, which contributes to the disproportionate asthma rates among lower-income children, in communities of color, and those living near major roadways.</td>
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<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - February 21, 1:00pm</td>
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<td>Favorable</td>
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<td>Speaker/President (on behalf of the Administration)</td>
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**Economic Matters (ECM)**

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<tr>
<th>BILL #</th>
<th>HB169/SB144</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing</td>
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<td>SUMMARY</td>
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<td>Increases the amount of resources directed to limited-income ratepayers.</td>
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<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing – March 2, 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Charkoudian/Feldman</td>
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<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Clean Transportation and Energy Act</td>
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<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Provides incentives for the purchase and sale of electric medium and heavy duty trucks and charging stations, and enables additional support for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. This bill supports the implementation of the Clean Trucks Act (HB230/SB224).</td>
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<td>Medium and heavy-duty trucks and buses make up only 9% of the state's vehicles, but they contribute a disproportionate 39% of nitrogen oxide (NOx), 48% of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and 21% of global warming emissions from all on-road vehicles in the state, disproportionately burdening those living near major roadways.</td>
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<td>CLIMATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - February 23, 1:00pm (ENT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Speaker/President (on behalf of the Administration)</td>
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<td>BILL #</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - March 6, 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support - Maryland LCV Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Charkoudian/Hester</td>
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<tr>
<th>BILL #</th>
<th>HB904/SB689</th>
<th><strong>Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensures that the EmPOWER program to support energy efficiency upgrades for low income Marylanders is aligned with the carbon emissions reduction goals set forth by the Climate Solutions Now Act and provides resources for greater access by non-English speaking Marylanders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>EmPOWER reform will help low income Marylanders access energy efficiency upgrades, to include electric upgrades, so they won't be locked into using gas appliances as gas prices are anticipated to increase and increase indoor air pollutants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to decrease GHG emissions to combat climate change, while reducing utility bills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - March 1, 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Qi/Young</td>
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### Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

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<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Makes permanent the community solar program and improves the ability of low-income Marylanders to participate in the program by creating the option for consolidated billing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>Aligns the program to the principles of Justice 40 by ensuring that every community solar project reserves 40% of its created energy for low-and-moderate income households and those in overburdened and underserved communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Projects currently operational or in the queue represents 379MW of energy, which is the equivalent of 357,356 metric tons of CO2 emissions avoided per year, or 12.5 million metric tons over the projected (35 years) life of the projects. With a permanent status, the potential for growth of community solar projects is high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Hearing Scheduled - February 28, 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support - Maryland LCV Priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Clippinger/Brooks</td>
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### Clean Trucks Act of 2023

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Clean Trucks Act of 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Mandates the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, which requires vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of new zero-emission trucks and school buses through 2035.</td>
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<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>Medium and heavy-duty trucks and buses make up only 9% of the state's vehicles, but they contribute a disproportionate 39% of nitrogen oxide (NOx), 48% of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and 21% of global warming emissions from all on-road vehicles in the state, disproportionately burdening those living near major roadways.</td>
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<td>SPONSOR</td>
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<td>BILL #</td>
<td>HB503</td>
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<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Natural Resources - Greenspace Equity Program - Establishment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>A “Greenspace Equity Program” would provide annual state funding to support projects, led by land trusts, local governments and community partners, that would increase and enhance ‘community greenspace’ in Maryland's underserved and overburdened communities. Preserving, creating and enhancing public community greenspaces would improve public health and livability for many communities across the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>This bill directs resources specifically to overburdened and underserved communities throughout the state.</td>
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<td>STATUS</td>
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<td>POSITION</td>
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### BILL # HB631/SB470
**TITLE** Maryland the Beautiful Act

**SUMMARY** President Biden's Executive Order sets a new national goal of 30% of U.S. lands permanently preserved by 2030. This bill goes a step further and sets a conservation goal of 40% of Maryland lands permanently protected by 2040. This bill will: create a rapid-response revolving loan fund program to allow land trusts to move quickly on conservation opportunities; increase the capacity of partner land trusts to assist the state in meeting the goal; and ensure that the lands are protected in perpetuity.

**STATUS** Bill Hearing - February 22, 1:00pm

**POSITION** Favorable

**SPONSOR** Stein/Elfreth

**COMMITTEE** ENT

### BILL # HB840/SB743
**TITLE** Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023

**SUMMARY** Enables the Maryland Department of Environment to fully assess the health and environmental impacts of projects on marginalized communities and prioritize these communities for public protection.

**CLIMATE** Adds a layer of scrutiny for projects being permitted in overburdened and underserved communities, increases the publicly available reporting from state agencies on environmental justice, and increases public notice opportunities for projects.

**STATUS** Bill Hearing - March 8, 1:00pm

**POSITION** Favorable

**SPONSOR** Boyce/Jackson

**COMMITTEE** ENT/EEE
**HOTLIST**

Health and Government Operations (HGO)

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**Climate:** The building sector represents the second largest contributor to our state's greenhouse gas emissions. Improving energy efficiency in buildings is essential to reaching our state's carbon emission reduction goals.  
**Status:** Bill Already Heard  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Sponsor:** Lam/Hill  
**Committee:** EEE/HGO (APP)  

### Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing

**Bill #:** SB144/HB169  
**Title:** Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing  
**Summary:** This bill sets up a 1% goal for the limited income EmPOWER Maryland programs managed by DHCD. Setting a required level of energy savings for the limited income programs will ensure the limited income programs help more households in need and deliver greater benefits.  
**Equity:** Increases the amount of resources directed to limited-income ratepayers.  
**Climate:** Improving energy efficiency of buildings reduces the carbon emissions and helps move the state towards its greenhouse gas reduction goals.  
**Status:** Bill Already Heard  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Sponsor:** Charkoudian/Feldman  
**Committee:** EEE/ECM
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<td>POSITION</td>
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<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Elfreth/Stein</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Creates a system to provide a service year option for high school graduates to work for community organizations and nonprofit groups. This program will serve as a springboard for participants to enter into post-service year employment, higher education, or apprenticeships while creating a culture of service in communities across the state. The three key program areas are climate, education, and health.</td>
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<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
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<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>President/Speaker (on behalf of the Administration)</td>
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<td>BILL #</td>
<td>SB613/HB908</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Makes permanent the community solar program and improves the ability of low-income Marylanders to participate in the program by creating the option for consolidated billing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>Aligns the program to the principles of Justice 40 by ensuring that every community solar project reserves 40% of its created energy for low-and-moderate income households and those in overburdened and underserved communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Projects currently operational or in the queue represents 379MW of energy, which is the equivalent of 357,356 metric tons of CO2 emissions avoided per year, or 12.5 million metric tons over the projected (35 years) life of the projects. With a permanent status, the potential for growth of community solar projects is high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - February 28, 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support - Maryland LCV Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Brooks/Clippinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE</td>
<td>EEE/ECM</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL #</th>
<th>SB689/HB904</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Ensures that the EmPOWER program to support energy efficiency upgrades for low income Marylanders is aligned with the carbon emissions reduction goals set forth by the Climate Solutions Now Act and provides resources for greater access by non-English speaking Marylanders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>EmPOWER reform will help low income Marylanders access energy efficiency upgrades, to include electric upgrades, so they won't be locked into using gas appliances as gas prices are anticipated to increase and increase indoor air pollutants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to decrease GHG emissions to combat climate change, while reducing utility bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - February 28, 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Young/Qi</td>
</tr>
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<td>EEE/ECM</td>
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<tr>
<td>BILL #</td>
<td>SB743/HB840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Enables the Maryland Department of Environment to fully assess the health and environmental impacts of projects on marginalized communities and prioritize these communities for public protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>Adds a layer of scrutiny for projects being permitted in overburdened and underserved communities, increases the publicly available reporting from state agencies on environmental justice, and increases public notice opportunities for projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Bill Hearing - February 23, 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Favorable - Maryland LCV Priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Jackson/Boyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE</td>
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<tr>
<th>BILL #</th>
<th>SB781/HB793</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>Sets a new target of 8GW for Maryland’s offshore wind production, requires the Public Service Commission to issue an RFP to identify a plan for transmission from the projects to the onshore grid, and sets a model of state energy procurement to protect against ratepayer impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>Beyond the health benefits of replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and being more intentional about transmission infrastructure, this bill will produce more family-sustaining jobs through new offshore wind projects and transmission investments, which creates the opportunity to build generational wealth in communities who have been historically excluded from job, housing, and wealth opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE</td>
<td>According to a recent report by Gabel and Associates the potential avoided emissions from wind generation over the projected life of the project is (in tons) 361,445,105 CO2, 120,508 SO2, and 128,931 NOX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
<td>Hearing not scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>POSITION</td>
<td>Support - Maryland LCV Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Hester/Charkoudian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE</td>
<td>EEE/ECM</td>
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Maryland League of Conservation Voters creates and distributes our “hotlist” every week to make sure you know the bills that are a priority for us and the environmental community. Maryland LCV also produces a scorecard at the end of every legislative session. Bills that are scored are included in this list and scores are drawn from all public record votes (Committee, Floor, Amendment).

While not every bill is scored, any bill on our hotlist, or any vote that we communicate with you about by e-mail or through this Hotlist, may be scored. If you would like a bill considered for inclusion on the Hotlist, please contact Kristen Harbeson at kharbeson@mdlcv.org