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## Public Comments re the Conowingo Dam Re-Licensing

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To: "elder.ghigiarelli@maryland.gov" <elder.ghigiarelli@maryland.gov>

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you today in support of the Conowingo Dam's re-licensing.

From what I understand, the current delay is based upon the dam's inability to trap upstream sediment, caused by runoff, from entering the Chesapeake Bay. In fact, there is much talk in favor of dredging and stirring up very harmful pre-Clean Water Act pollutants that are presently buried under more recent sediment. Moreover, there is a desire to have Exelon, the owner of the dam, pay for the removal of the dirt brought to us by our northern neighbors, as well as northern Harford and Cecil Counties.

In case it isn't obvious, dams do not generate sediment, nor the pollutants contained therein. All costs associated with runoff, sediment, and dredging, should be paid for and/or mitigated by those responsible for their entrance into the Susquehanna River. This is the most reasonable solution to our pollution problem.

As a decades long resident of Harford County, I have great faith in the stewardship that Exelon has put not only into the Conowingo Dam, but into the ecosystem that flows through its spillways and generators. In addition to being our state's largest source of renewable and sustainable energy, it is a good corporate neighbor. They provide the fish ladders and other mechanisms employed to preserve the wildlife of the area, public amenities for fishing and bird watching, a public pool, as well as employment and tax revenue. I've spoken with many representatives of the dam over the last several years, learning much about the dam and its influence on the Susquehanna. I am convinced that the managers and employees of the Dam are not only dedicated to their work, but for the preservation of our public waterways and their health.

Thank you very much for your time,

Keith Gabel

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