

July 31, 2023

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

As President of Constellation Power, I'm reaching out to share why I believe the Conowingo Dam is vital for achieving Maryland's clean energy and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

I'm very proud of the men and women who operate the Conowingo Dam. Their professionalism and commitment to safety and operational excellence help the dam deliver more clean, renewable energy to the grid than any other source in Maryland. I am equally impressed by their commitment to industry-leading environmental stewardship. The dam's agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to trap and truck American shad and river herring above Conowingo and three other upstream dams was the first of its kind and commits Constellation to building capacity to pass up to 5 million American shad and 12 million river herring annually.

I'm proud to know that the Conowingo Dam's clean, renewable energy is a critical part of Maryland's energy mix to achieve Governor Wes Moore's goal of generating 100 percent clean energy in Maryland by 2035. It also plays a key role in our company's commitment to generating 100 percent of our energy from carbon-free sources by 2040.

Efforts to blame the dam for harming the Bay are misplaced. The dam does not produce pollution. In fact, it traps harmful pollutants that flow downstream from Pennsylvania and New York. Our team at the dam removes an average of more than 600 tons of upstream debris annually. Without the dam, the pollutants and debris would flow directly into the bay.

Our team is also committed to preserving the areas surrounding the dam for the public to enjoy. Each year, the dam's employees support more than 365,000 visits and they regularly partner with the surrounding community to host river clean-ups, celebrations, and other events.

At Constellation, we are all committed to being Climate Champions, which is exemplified by our team at the Conowingo Dam. I am proud of their work to maintain Maryland's largest source of renewable energy and to preserve the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. I ask that you approve a water quality certification that does not unfairly penalize the dam and that secures a new long-term license for the Conowingo Dam preserving the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Bill Swahl
President of Constellation Power