

Serena Coleman McIlwain  
Secretary of the Environment  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21230

**RECEIVED**

AUG 04 2023

TERRA WETLANDS DIVISION  
Wetlands and Waterways Program

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

I'm reaching out to share my perspective on the vital role Conowingo Dam plays in achieving Maryland's clean energy and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

I've been a proud employee at Conowingo Dam for the past 10 years and I currently serve as the dam's Maintenance Manager. I am especially proud that the Dam continues to be the state's largest producer of renewable energy. Collectively, my Constellation colleagues and I help generate 90 percent of Maryland's clean energy. Our company calls on all of us to be Climate Champions, and it feels good to know that my work here has done so much to support the climate, as well as preserve the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

Our facility has operated for the past 95 years and continues to be critical to achieving Governor Wes Moore's goal of generating 100 percent clean energy in Maryland by 2035. Importantly, the dam has the flexibility to generate clean power after sunset and without wind.

Like all employees at the dam, I treasure the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay, and I am disappointed by efforts to blame the dam for pollution it does not produce. My colleagues and I remove more than 600 tons of upstream debris on average annually, and we are committed to doing our part to keep our waterways clean and healthy. I often marvel at our fish lift operation, which helps us transport American shad and river herring upstream and remove invasive species from our waterways. Our team works diligently to keep these systems operational because we know how important the work is to the long-term health of our region.

I hope that you and Governor Moore will work to bring all parties together to secure a long-term license for Conowingo. We must find a balanced path forward that secures a new long-term license for the Conowingo Dam and preserves the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Adams  
Maintenance Manager at Conowingo Dam

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Tidal Wetlands Division  
Wetlands and Waterways Program

Serena Coleman McIlwain  
Secretary of the Environment  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

As a Constellation Energy employee, I'm reaching out to share my perspective on why the Conowingo Dam is critical for achieving Maryland's clean energy and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

I've worked at the Conowingo Dam as an Operations Manager for the past two years. I've seen first-hand how the dam plays a key role in preventing climate change and protecting Maryland's waterways. As the state's largest producer of clean, carbon-free energy, the dam contributes to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation of global warming.

My colleagues and I help generate 90% of Maryland's clean energy. Each year, the dam produces enough clean, renewable energy to power approximately 165,000 homes while avoiding 867,000 metric tons of carbon emissions—the equivalent of removing roughly 190,000 cars from the road annually. Importantly, the dam has the flexibility to generate clean power after sunset and without wind.

Efforts to blame the dam for pollution are misplaced. In fact, the dam doesn't create pollution; rather, it traps harmful pollutants that flow downstream from Pennsylvania and New York. We help remove more than 600 tons of upstream debris each year. If the dam didn't exist, that upstream pollution and debris would flow into the Bay.

The dam is an example of how Maryland can balance its environmental and economic goals. Hydropower is a cheap and mature technology that provides environmental benefits for the state now and into the future. The dam also brings in \$273 million in annual economic benefits to Maryland, supporting 365,350 recreation visits each year and the equivalent of 265 full-time jobs.

Constellation calls on all of us to be Climate Champions, and I'm proud to know that my work here has done so much to support the climate, as well as preserve the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. As part of its historic 2019 settlement with the state, Constellation committed \$700 million over the duration of a 50-year license to protect the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay—more than any other private entity in the 27,500 square-mile watershed.

All stakeholders must come together to address the true causes of pollution in the watershed. I hope you will find a balanced path forward that secures a new long-term license for the Conowingo Dam and preserves the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pavel Bhagi  
Operations Manager at Conowingo Dam