



July 28, 2023

Regulatory and Customer Service Division Chief  
Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program  
Water and Science Administration  
Maryland Department of Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430  
Baltimore, Maryland, 21230

**Re: Conowingo Dam WQC**

Regulatory and Customer Service Division Chief:

Located along the banks of the Susquehanna River and Upper Bay, the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) heritage area is a state and local community partnership created to advocate for the protection and restoration of the area's natural resource and cultural heritage as well as the creation of a land and water recreational trail system.

The trails are the physical linkage that unites the waterfront communities in Harford and Cecil County. They represent the historical connection and the economic leverage created by working together to create a regional identity and tourist destination.

The gateway to 4 National Trails, the LSHG supports heritage tourism, conservation, and recreational efforts that promote the local economy, create jobs, and build stronger communities. The LSHG shares the important stories from the past to provide a sense of identity and vision for the future.

Therefore, the LSHG has a deep interest in water quality and the overall environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Since our inception in 1992, we have had a strong working relationship with various management entities that have overseen the operation of the Conowingo Dam. We have worked together on numerous environmental initiatives, such as River Sweep, National Trails Day, and the Susquehanna Sojourn, and also the establishment of a trail system that educates users about the River and the Bay.

A major land donation of approximately 300 acres, for conservation and recreational purposes, in the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway is pending. Completing this land transfer will permanently preserve valuable ecosystems and habitats along the Susquehanna, encourage environmental stewardship, and allow for increased public water access and additional waterfront recreational activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brigitte C. Carty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigitte C. Carty  
Executive Director