

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Conowingo Dam – Sediment – Dredging**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the United States Congress to authorize and fund a certain
4 project to dredge behind the Conowingo Dam for a certain purpose; providing
5 that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative
6 Services to certain individuals; and generally relating to the Conowingo Dam.

7 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure constituting the largest
8 estuary in the United States and one of the largest and most biologically productive
9 estuaries in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River plays an important
11 ecological role in retaining sediment and other pollutants that would otherwise enter
12 the Bay; and

13 WHEREAS, The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the reservoir of the
14 Conowingo Dam will completely fill with sediment in the next 15 to 20 years, causing
15 the flow of sediment past the dam to more than double to almost 3.3 million tons
16 annually; and

17 WHEREAS, A study of pollution releases over the dam suggests that the Bay is
18 already seeing damaging effects from the loss of reservoir sediment storage capacity
19 behind the Conowingo Dam; and

20 WHEREAS, Failing to address increased nutrient and sediment loads from the
21 Conowingo Dam would significantly undermine the State's efforts to meet the
22 requirements of the multistate pollution diet for the Bay, known as the Chesapeake
23 Bay Total Maximum Daily Load; and

24 WHEREAS, The Susquehanna River Basin Commission Sediment Task Force
25 concluded that dredging could provide the needed sediment storage capacity behind
26 the Conowingo Dam; now, therefore, be it



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1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
2 General Assembly urges the United States Congress to authorize and fully fund a
3 project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge sediment behind the Conowingo
4 Dam in order to preserve the dam's capability to block pollutants in the Susquehanna
5 River from reaching the Chesapeake Bay; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
8 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
9 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.