

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: ~~Senator Simonaire~~ Senators Simonaire, Montgomery, Jennings, Young, Conway, Dyson, and Pinsky ~~Pinsky, and Jacobs~~ Pinsky, Jacobs, Colburn, Glassman, Hershey, Kittleman, and Mathias

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 25, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Conowingo Dam – Sediment – Dredging

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

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



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

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

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

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

Approved:

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.