

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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CF 5lr1064

By: **Senators Simonaire, Bates, Brochin, Cassilly, Currie, Eckardt, Edwards, Getty, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, King, Middleton, Montgomery, Norman, Pugh, Raskin, Reilly, Salling, Waugh, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Conowingo Dam – Sediment and Nutrient Pollution**
3 **(National Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act of 2015)**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the United States Congress to authorize a review of certain
5 studies related to the Conowingo Dam for the purpose of initiating and funding a
6 certain project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; providing that a copy of this
7 resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain
8 individuals; and generally relating to the Conowingo Dam.

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

12 WHEREAS, The 444 mile–long Susquehanna River is the single largest source of
13 sediment and nutrient pollution flowing into the Chesapeake Bay; and

14 WHEREAS, The Susquehanna River watershed covers a vast region, lying 76.2%
15 within Pennsylvania, 22% within New York, and 1% within Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, The Conowingo Dam has historically played an important ecological role
17 in retaining sediment and other pollutants that would otherwise enter the Chesapeake Bay
18 from the Susquehanna River; and

19 WHEREAS, As a result of dynamic equilibrium at the Conowingo Dam, the dam is
20 now transferring roughly the same amount of pollution into the Chesapeake Bay as it did
21 70 years ago, despite a 56% reduction in the pollutant load coming into the dam reservoir;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment concluded that
24 failing to address sediment and nutrient loads from the Conowingo Dam would undermine



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1 the State's efforts to meet the requirements of the multistate pollution diet for the
2 Chesapeake Bay, known as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
5 Assembly urges the United States Congress to authorize a review of the studies related to
6 the Conowingo Dam for the purpose of initiating and funding a project by the U.S. Army
7 Corps of Engineers to address the buildup of sediment and nutrients behind the dam in
8 order to minimize the pollutant load reaching the Chesapeake Bay from the Susquehanna
9 River; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
11 Legislative Services to the Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable
12 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable
13 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.