

President Robert Meffley, District 1
Vice President Jackie Gregory, District 5
Councilman William H. Coutz, District 2
Councilman Al Miller, District 3
Councilman George Patchell, District 4



James Massey
Council Manager
County Council Office
410.996.5201
FAX 800.865.0587
Email: council@ccgov.org

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

February 12, 2020

The Hon. Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 955 Federal Clean Water Act – Authority of State
Letter of Support

Dear Senator Pinsky:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports SB 955 Federal Clean Water Act – Authority of State, which is scheduled for hearing on February 19, 2020.

This legislation prohibits the State from entering into an agreement that waives the State's authority under the Clean Water Act, including the State's duty regarding the relicensing of the Conowingo Dam.

This legislation will affect the proposed agreement between Exelon and the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding the State's right to issue a Water Quality Certification on Conowingo Dam. The Susquehanna River and Cecil County are profoundly affected by the sediments, nutrients and debris trapped behind the dam. The State should not waive its rights to enforce water quality standards.

If this legislation is approved, the State will have waived its rights to regulate or enforce any of the agreement with Exelon and the Chesapeake Bay will continue to be vulnerable to pollution flowing down the Susquehanna River from out of the state.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee consider a favorable report on SB 955.

Sincerely,


Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Senator Steve Hershey
Senator Jason Gallion