



Maryland
Energy
Administration

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mary Beth Tung, Director

TO: House Environment and Transportation
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 1465 Federal Clean Water Act - Authority of State
DATE: March 04, 2020

MEA POSITION: Letter of Information

The proposed legislation may interfere with or frustrate the settlement agreement between the State and the Conowingo dam's owner. MEA supports the continued operation of the Conowingo dam because it provides large quantities of emissions-free electricity that is both scalable and extremely reliable. The Conowingo dam is also incredibly valuable to Maryland as a generation asset because of its blackstart capability; having the ability to jump-start the electric grid in situations where there is a large blackout. MEA believes that the proposed legislation may add unnecessary risk to the settlement that was reached between the State and the owner of Conowingo Dam to assist in the remediation of the effects of upstream polluters.

MEA's mission is to: "promote affordable, reliable and cleaner energy for the benefit of all Marylanders." This bill could negatively affect the affordability, reliability, and clean nature of Maryland's in-State electricity generation, albeit unintentionally. MEA requests you take this information under advisement when considering how to report on HB1425.