



The Town of Rock Hall

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March 3, 2020

Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Rock Hall please accept this written testimony in serious support of HB 1465.

Rock Hall sits directly on the eastern edge of the Chesapeake Bay. Its economy depends on every aspect of the bay's health and maritime activities, both recreational and commercial. The current status of the Conowingo Dam's maxed out reservoir impacts the Town and the entire bay everyday – weather events determine to what extent the level of pollution, debris and danger are evident.

The problems behind the dam MUST be dealt with NOW and not over 50 years. The current contract that the State of Maryland has agreed to with Exelon must be stopped and renegotiated. The State must retain its responsibility to enforce all regulations that govern water quality and the health of the bay.

If this deal goes through restoration will not be achieved – serious deterioration will continue and in a few years be past a point of no return.

Focusing on what arrives in the bay is not the solution. Until the debris and sediment that is behind the dam is removed the current conditions will continue. Commercial, state and federal resources need to come together and get to work on the necessary clean up and regulatory changes needed to prevent the problem from building back up again. It is time to stop studying and talking about it – it is time to act.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure. If nothing changes, nothing changes, and we all stand to lose it.

Sincerely,


Dawn E. Jacobs

Mayor

The Town of Rock Hall

CC: District 36 Delegation

The County Commissioners of Kent County Maryland