

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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CF 51r1064

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 ~~Conowingo Dam~~ Susquehanna River Basin – 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~~ Susquehanna River Basin for the purpose of
6 initiating and funding a certain project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
7 providing that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of
8 Legislative Services to certain individuals; and generally relating to the ~~Conowingo~~
9 ~~Dam~~ Chesapeake Bay.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

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



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1 WHEREAS, As a result of dynamic equilibrium at the Conowingo Dam, the dam is
2 now transferring roughly the same amount of pollution into the Chesapeake Bay as it did
3 70 years ago, despite a 56% reduction in the pollutant load coming into the dam reservoir;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment concluded that
6 failing to address sediment and nutrient loads from the ~~Conowingo Dam~~ Susquehanna
7 River Basin would undermine the State's efforts to meet the requirements of the multistate
8 pollution diet for the Chesapeake Bay, known as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum
9 Daily Load; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
11 Assembly urges the United States Congress to authorize a review of the studies related to
12 the ~~Conowingo Dam~~ Susquehanna River Basin for the purpose of initiating and funding a
13 project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the ~~buildup~~ transport of sediment
14 and nutrients ~~behind from the dam~~ Susquehanna River Basin in order to minimize the
15 pollutant load reaching the Chesapeake Bay from the Susquehanna River; and be it further

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

Approved:

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.