



**TO:** Members, Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** SB0540 (HB0427) - Federal Clean Water Act - Authority of State  
**DATE:** February 24, 2021

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**MEA POSITION: Letter of Information**

The proposed legislation may interfere with or frustrate the settlement agreement between the State and the Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station.

MEA supports the continued operation of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station 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'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. The proposed legislation may also add unnecessary risk to the settlement that was reached between the State and the Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station to assist in the remediation of the effects of upstream polluters.

MEA requests you take this information under advisement when considering how to report on Senate Bill 540.