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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0108- POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Environment - Water Resources and Wetlands – Enforcement**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0108, Environment - Water Resources and Wetlands – Enforcement**

The Conowingo Dam project has been a source of conflict between the state, the utility, and the community.

A coalition representing at least two Eastern Shore counties has appealed the water quality certification Maryland issued to the Conowingo Dam in September, potentially threatening a \$340 million settlement with the dam's owners. <sup>1</sup>

This bill will empower the State Department of the Environment to exercise more control over both this and similar projects in Maryland. It will accomplish this goal by authorizing the Department of the Environment to impose an administrative penalty for certain violations related to the appropriation or use of water and dam safety; repealing a certain limitation on the Department's authority to issue certain orders and send certain notices related to dam safety; authorizing the Department to impose an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation, not to exceed \$100,000, for certain violations related to wetlands construction, modification, or development; etc.

It will make clear to both businesses and local communities that Maryland will vigorously enforce environmental regulations and prevent water and dam safety violations.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0108.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://talbotspy.org/eastern-shore-group-appeals-conowingo-dam-certification/>