



Senate Joint Resolution 1

*Conowingo Dam – Sediment and Nutrient Pollution
(National Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act of 2015)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: February 3, 2015

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SJ 1. The resolution would urge the United States Congress to authorize a review of studies related to the Conowingo Dam for the purpose of initiating and funding a project by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to address the buildup of sediment and nutrients behind the Conowingo Dam.

MACo believes that the Conowingo Dam is an important piece (although not the only piece) in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) “puzzle.” The Association has supported the ongoing efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Maryland Department of the Environment to address the dam’s impact on the main stem of the bay and certain Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

As noted in previous testimony (HB 910 of 2014), MACo has also supported completion of studies necessary to address the sediment buildup behind the Conowingo Dam. With Maryland facing challenging Chesapeake Bay TMDL nutrient and sediment reduction goals and the dam’s owner, Exelon, in the midst of reapplying for a 46-year operating license, there will be no better time to address the dam’s water pollution issues.

SJ 1 represents a reasonable request for Congress to initiate review of the completed studies, which should provide the information necessary for the Corps to initiate an effective sediment remediation strategy for the Conowingo Dam. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report for SJ 1.