



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

July 27, 2018

Benjamin Grumbles  
Chair, Principals' Staff Committee  
Maryland Department the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Conowingo Dam WIP Process

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

I am writing as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee to express our support for the Guiding Principles that the Principals Staff Committee adopted for the Conowingo WIP, and for designating specific nutrient reduction obligations for Exelon. We also are requesting that the Bay Program ensure that there is early and active local government participation in the Conowingo WIP planning process so that the implementation of the Conowingo WIP works in concert with Phase III WIPs and does not create barriers or increase the burden for local implementation of the other nutrient reductions.

We were pleased that the Guiding Principles for the Conowingo WIP include transparency, sound science, and accountability – principles that should guide all WIP development. The Bay Program has estimated that it will require an annual reduction of 6 million pounds of nitrogen and 260,000 pounds of phosphorus to offset the impact of the Conowingo dam's lost trapping capacity. These principles will help ensure that the resulting load reductions are allocated equitably. Local governments will be affected by decisions made to address these loads, including where and when practices to address the loadings will be implemented, so they should have an active voice as plans are developed.

We value the strong and collaborative relationship that the Bay Program and COG have cultivated over the years, and we look forward to early and regular engagement by metropolitan Washington local governments in the Conowingo Dam WIP development process.

Sincerely,

Libby Garvey  
Chair CBPC

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