



METROPOLITAN BALTIMORE COUNCIL AFL-CIO Unions

August 1, 2023

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

I'm reaching out on behalf of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO concerning the importance of the Conowingo Dam for the environmental and economic well-being of our members, their families and the state of Maryland.

For the past 95 years, the Conowingo Dam has been the largest source of renewable energy for the state, generating enough energy each year to power approximately 165,000 homes while avoiding 867,000 metric tons of carbon emissions. It's also been a critical protector of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River, trapping harmful pollutants that travel downstream from Pennsylvania and New York and removing about 600 tons of debris annually.

The dam also benefits our economy, bringing \$273 million in economic benefits to Maryland each year and supporting 265 full-time jobs, including ours. The decision to vacate the dam's 50-year license, however, will result in approximately 100 lost jobs and more than \$2.1 million in lost wages this year alone.

There are few life events as disruptive and stressful as losing a job. Unfortunately, the longer it takes to secure a new long-term license for the dam, the longer these projects will remain delayed. During this time, our members have faced economic uncertainty as they wait for the projects to continue and have scrambled to find new jobs to support their families.

We were proud to support the endorsement of Governor Wes Moore in the 2022 election and remain committed to his goal of supporting Maryland's economy and environment. The dam benefits both, and we are eager to get our members back to work to support a green economic future for our state.

We all want a thriving economy and ecology in our state that leaves no one behind. We urge all parties to work together to find a solution that addresses both the environmental challenges of the watershed and the economic opportunities the dam creates for our families. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to help get our members back to work as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Courtney Jenkins

President, Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions