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**Congress of the United States**  
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September 19, 2017

Mr. Ronald H. Fithian  
Chairman and Kent County Commissioner  
Clean Chesapeake Coalition  
120 Speer Road, Suite 1  
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

Dear Mr. Fithian:

This letter is in response to correspondence I received from the Clean Chesapeake Coalition regarding relicensing of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station, colloquially known as the Conowingo Dam. I am well aware of the current situation, and have been briefed by my staff on the unsustainable – and downright dangerous – level of silt buildup behind that dam at this time.

As you know, the current license holder for the dam, Exelon Corporation, is up for relicensing. While licensing takes place largely at the state level, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a federal-level agency, is ultimately responsible for approving a new license.

Please know that I am also aware of the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017, which you mentioned in your correspondence, and wholeheartedly share your concerns with provisions which would limit the ability of states to have a direct role in the relicensing process.

While I have not been directly involved in the renegotiation of their license – that is within the purview of Governor Hogan – I am hopeful that Exelon Corporation and the state will be able to come to an agreement as to who should be responsible for dredging the dam. As I am sure the Clean Chesapeake Coalition is aware, no solution now means that the issue will simply be kicked down the road, allowing time for even further silt buildup and the risk of greater ecological damage to the Chesapeake Bay.

At this time, I have been in contact with other Maryland Delegation House and Senate Offices, as well as with the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Please know that I remain committed to finding a solution to this issue that is best for all stakeholders.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress