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### *Saving a National Treasure*

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Dear Member of Maryland's General Assembly,

Based on a few recent news articles and online campaigns, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) suspects that you may have questions on the science behind the Conowingo Dam and the effects it may have on our efforts to clean Maryland's rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Some of you may also wonder what CBF is doing to make sure that issues around the dam are addressed as part of our clean-up efforts. We wanted to provide you some answers and links to where you can find additional information as the discussion continues about the dam's relicensing.

CBF recognizes that the Conowingo Dam has played a role in curtailing the sediment pollution that travels down the Susquehanna River and eventually reaches the Bay. Over time, the dam's ability to trap pollution has diminished due to sediment build up behind the dam. Therefore, we are working to ensure that the effects of dam operations on downstream water quality and the passage of migratory fish species are addressed and mitigated as part of the new operating permit. This is why CBF has formally intervened as a party to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the dam.

Preliminary results of a study being conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers indicate that while sediments and nutrients scoured from behind the dam during storm events do affect downstream water quality, those effects are largely restricted to the Bay's main stem. That is, there is little to no impact of sediment and nutrients from behind the dam on many local rivers and streams that are badly in need of restoration. In addition, study results indicate that the pollution flowing down the Susquehanna from upstream sources far outpaces the pollution coming from behind Conowingo Dam, reaffirming the importance of implementing the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint to restore the Bay and our local waters. CBF remains committed to the implementation of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint including responding appropriately to the data and science about the dam as it becomes available. You can read more about CBF's position on the Conowingo Dam along with recent expert testimony from a hearing held by Senator Cardin here: <http://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/issues/polluted-runoff/conowingo-dam-and-chesapeake-bay>.

Unfortunately, to further confuse the public on the work being done to deliver clean water to all Marylanders, some are exploiting the situation and using it as opportunity to question CBF's work and the reputation of the organization. It is unfortunate because it only serves as a distraction from the on the ground work that staff at CBF and others are doing every day to improve our water quality. In light of the falsehoods and suggestions of impropriety, CBF feels it is necessary to set the record straight on a two incorrect statements that have recently been made.

(1) CBF does not have an offshore bank account. However, to generate revenue to support our long-term, substantive work, our board of directors, through its investment committee, ensures that we maintain a diversified portfolio of fixed income, mutual fund and equity investments, and other financial accounts – some of which are non-US headquartered. This approach is prudent and in line with the investment practices of most U.S. non-profits of our size. Our IRS tax form 990 as well as a recent audit are available to the public on our website.

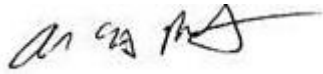
(2) CBF has never solicited nor received donations from the Exelon Corporation. Employees of Exelon independently chose CBF as the organization to whom they would like the Exelon Foundation to match their personal donation through a workplace giving program. The

total of \$1,100 over two years from the Exelon Foundation was due to voluntary personal contributions from Exelon employees and matched by the Exelon Foundation.

For the Clean Water Blueprint to deliver fishable and swimmable waters throughout Maryland, we need to address all sources of pollution. Every day important work is being done by state and local governments, non-profits like CBF, the private sector, academics and others to improve the long-term health of the Bay. And all this hard work is bearing fruit. For instance, again this summer the Bay's dead zone will be near a 20 or 30 year low and the Bay-wide (MD + VA) oyster harvest, including wild and aquaculture, grew to about 750,000 bushels in the 2012-2013 session far exceeding the roughly 50,000 bushels in the 2003-2004 season. Some have chosen to focus entirely on the Conowingo Dam, at the expense of proven local clean-up strategies that would improve local waters and to purposely mislead the public for their own gain. As a member of Maryland's General Assembly you have provided the leadership and resources necessary to clean Maryland's waters and for that we are grateful. Now is not the time to get distracted; we need to stay the course with the Clean Water Blueprint so that we can continue to see improved Bay health.

Please contact me at 443-482-2167 or [aprost@cbf.org](mailto:aprost@cbf.org) if you would like to set up a meeting or have additional questions. We welcome the opportunity to share the science and facts with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Prost', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alison Prost  
Maryland Executive Director