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Vice President Dr. Alan McCarthy, District 1

Councilwoman Joyce Bowsbey, District 2

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

September 10, 2013

Dear

Members of the County Council of Cecil County enjoyed attending the MACo Summer Conference with elected officials and staff of other Maryland counties.

As a member of the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, Cecil County is working with other counties to strengthen our collective voice in Annapolis and at the federal level. The objective of the Clean Chesapeake Coalition is to pursue improvements to the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner. Current county members include Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick and Kent. There is an informative website at www.cleanchesapeakecoalition.com.

The Clean Chesapeake Coalition began almost one year ago as likeminded counties banded together with their common concerns over costly federal and State policies, programs and practices, of questionable measured benefit, being mandated on local governments in the name of restoring the Chesapeake Bay, such as EPA's Bay TMDL and State and local WIPs. We have also been unified in bringing as much attention as possible to the single largest source of the pollution to the Bay – that is, the Susquehanna River and the Conowingo Dam reservoir, which has lost its trapping capacity as the largest stormwater management pond in the entire Bay watershed. Maryland's WIP does not address this source of pollution. Until it does, our Bay restoration efforts and expenditures below the Conowingo Dam are in jeopardy.

Recently, the Clean Chesapeake Coalition filed a substantive Motion to Intervene in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) re-licensing of the Conowingo Hydroelectric Dam, because of major concerns for the accumulated nutrients and sediment above the Dam (in the Conowingo Reservoir) and the devastating impacts of those pollutants as they are scoured into the Bay during storm events. We are advocating for conditions on any new license issued by FERC that will meaningfully improve the water quality of the Bay and protect our investments downstream. Such an effort from seven counties banding together will be bolstered by the support and participation of other local governments.

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As a Maryland county with a population of 101,000, Cecil County has greatly benefitted from its participation in the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. Members of the County Council are enthusiastic in inviting your county to become a member of the Clean Chesapeake Coalition.

Sincerely,

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

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