

December 1, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition support the amendment offered by Representatives John Sarbanes, Chris Van Hollen, and Paul Tonko to H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015. This proposed amendment modifies H.R. 8 so that nothing in the legislation will interfere with the right of states to protect their own waters under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act during hydropower dam licensing. We urge you vote for the Sarbanes/Van Hollen/Tonko Amendment.



As members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, we are very concerned about the quality of our local waters that flow into the Chesapeake Bay and support states' historic right to manage, control, and protect their own water resources during hydropower project licensing under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Current language in H.R. 8 seeks to take away states' ability to protect their water resources during hydropower licensing.

Even though there are other problems with the legislation, we urge you to please vote in favor of the amendment to H.R. 8 by Representatives Sarbanes, Van Hollen, and Tonko that will preserve each state's right to protect their own water quality during hydropower licensing.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Sustainable Communities

American Rivers

Anacostia Watershed Society

Cecil Land Use Association

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

Friends of the Nanticoke River

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Maryland Conservation Council

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Maryland Native Plant Society

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Natural Resources Defense Council

Nature Abounds

PennFuture

Potomac Riverkeeper

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Rock Creek Conservancy

Severn River Association

Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

South River Federation

Southern Environmental Law Center

St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Upper Potomac Riverkeeper

Virginia Conservation Network

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

West Virginia Rivers Coalition