

March 21, 2022

Mr. Adam Ortiz  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
1560 Arch Street (3RA00)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Ortiz:

As you know, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is a long-time partner with USEPA and the Chesapeake Bay states in helping to meet joint restoration goals. We have been following with particular interest the development of the innovative Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) and, as a creation of New York State, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the federal government, have been eager to play any role our members deem appropriate for successful execution.

A key aspect of the CWIP was the USEPA grant award to the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop a comprehensive financing strategy and associated investment plan. As part of that effort, SRBC was identified as the existing organization best suited to serve as the financing authority. Consequently, SRBC staff and commissioners have been active participants in discussions and strategy sessions preparing us to serve in that role. We are committed to continuing that effort and, ultimately, to serving as the CWIP financing entity.

In addition to planning to administer the finances of the CWIP, I'm happy to be able to announce that SRBC will be able to contribute financially to its success. We have embarked on an annual grant program that will aim to award up to \$5 million annually to projects that could include aspects of nutrient and sediment load reductions, any of which could be attributed to the CWIP allocation.

I appreciate EPA's leadership in this endeavor and look forward to serving in whatever capacity we can to advance our common goals.

Sincerely,



Andrew D. Dehoff, P.E.  
Executive Director