



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

HB 289

Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Date: March 1, 2023

Position: Support

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 289, which establishes a Maryland Forestry Education Fund to enhance and expand the Maryland Forestry Foundation's education programs for forest landowners.

Much of Maryland's forest land is in the possession of private landowners. The decisions these landowners make can have significant consequences for the environment including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat and mitigation of greenhouse gases among others. HB 289 expands the scope of forest landowner training programs by providing up-to-date information on sustainable forestry practices and ecosystem services.

Landowners, forestry boards, and local governments can integrate this information into forest management plans that protect forest functions while maintaining profitability of the forest resource. CBF especially welcomes education on climate science, forest conservation, and urban forestry as these topics are often missing from traditional forest education programs.

Building local capacity, institutionalizing sustainability, and peer-to-peer education are all tenants of a successful model for regenerative natural resources management. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation appreciates this legislation's efforts to improve forest stewardship through forestry education.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 289.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.