



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 848 Montgomery County – Agricultural Land Transfer Tax - Alterations**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **POSITION**

Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports HB 848 as support for Montgomery County's agricultural preservation efforts. This legislation would dedicate revenues collected from the Montgomery County Agricultural Land Transfer Tax to agricultural preservation or other agricultural programs.

### **COMMENTS**

Even though agriculture in Maryland is productive and extraordinarily important, it faces serious and growing threats. The greatest of these has proven to be loss of farmland to development.

This legislation alters the Montgomery County agricultural land transfer tax by requiring that revenue derived from the tax be used for agricultural land preservation programs or other programs that support agriculture in the county. This provision will hopefully allow the County to preserve its agricultural regions, despite growing development pressure.

Agriculture plays a key role in Maryland's economy, helps define a rural way of life, and, when well-managed, provides crucial water filtering for streams and rivers that feed into the Chesapeake Bay. The watershed states will not restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay without contributions of the agriculture sector.

### **CONCLUSION**

For these reasons, CBF urges a favorable report on HB 848. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Staff Attorney at (443)-482-2165 or [reilenberg@cbf.org](mailto:reilenberg@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 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*