



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CBF submits the enclosed testimony from teachers urging the Committee’s favorable report on HB 1053 Operating Budget - Education Programs - Mandated Funding.

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Dear General Assembly Members,

CBF's Environmental Education Programs are important to me because they offer engaging relevant lessons to my students that align with the Next Generation Science Standards as well as their local environment. I have been participating in CBF programs since the late 1990s. My students have spent invaluable time canoeing, boating, and wading all while studying the Chesapeake Bay, their bay. The environment where they live becomes a part of their learning and they learn how to help the bay's future.

Participating in a CBF experience means so much to my students. Not only do they have an outdoor educational experience, but they learn how to use scientific equipment we don't have available in the classroom. Students analyze and compare data and use higher-level thinking skills to apply the information in real-world situations.

My participation in CBF programs has made an impact in my professional and personal life. I have taken 6 courses through CBF for educators. I have applied for master's level credits from different universities, and just recently received my master's +30 accreditation in no small part due to CBF. Most recently as this past summer, I participated in the pilot virtual course, The Art Lens. During a time of hardship and change, CBF hit a home run with this course. Activities were planned for teachers to conduct investigations from their home and local areas. Professionally, I found the course challenging and engaging and it offered many ideas for in-person and virtual teaching strategies for me to use with my students in the future. Personally, it offered me a chance to spend part of my quarantine investigating my local environment with the use of art. I needed this course for healing and reflection during my isolation.

It is important to continue offering these programs to get students and teachers outside and engaged with their environment in only ways CBF can offer.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget

Mrs. Laura Greenlee

Science Teacher at Severna Park High School - Anne Arundel County, MD
Home Address: 411 River Rd., Arnold, MD 21012

Dear General Assembly Members,

I run an outdoor program at a school in Annapolis. A key part of our programming is to have our students work with the Education Department of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in various grades. The resources and places that CBF can take our kids to is something that even a well funded school cannot complete on their own. Our field experiences with CBF are a backdrop for weeks of curriculum that lead up to the trips and we can follow up for the entire year when referring to what the students learned on the trips. Our internal polling of seniors at school shows that the 9th grade experience with CBF is the single most impactful experience of the students journey from K-12.

Our teachers also use the professional development opportunities from CBF to not only learn new teaching techniques, but more importantly to be inspired and to focus their work on local issues.

CBF's programs can have an incredible impact on the entire state of Maryland. Imagine a kid in Frederick County who lives on a farm and understands how the stream on his property affects the Bay, or the one in Pocomoke City who knows how that fish he caught is part of a much larger ecosystem. We need CBF to be a unifying force to help all Marylanders understand our connection to the Bay for our economic health as well as our physical health.

Please support the restoration of CBF's state aided institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education Budget.

Paul Bayne
Outdoor Department
The Key School
1019 Kensington Way
Annapolis MD 21403

2/16/21

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am a Baltimore County high school science teacher and rely on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as a resource for my students and myself. The CBF's education programs can open my students' eyes to the importance of keeping our estuary clean and how our everyday actions affect the Bay. Many of my students live on or near the bay and want to learn about the importance of its' habitats and its' connection to clean water. I have participated in CBF educational programs and feel I have a better understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and can relate my knowledge to my students better because of the programs. The application of real data collection and analysis in the field with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is a valuable learning experience.

I currently teach Earth Systems in Baltimore County and often find connections between our content material and the Chesapeake Bay. The CBF has provided resources for teachers even when we cannot get out into the field because of the pandemic. I frequently use their educational videos and lessons for my own learning and during lessons with my students.

I recently learned that state funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Department was eliminated last year. This funding is critical for helping CBF continue to educate Maryland students and teachers like me. **PLEASE SUPPORT the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.**

Thank you,

Carole Blake
6101 Pinehurst Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Perry Hall High School/Baltimore County

Dear General Assembly Members,

My name is Jocelyn Tuttle and I am a Baltimore County high school science teacher. I can honestly say that my journey to becoming a public school science teacher began with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. When I was in 6th grade, I had the opportunity to participate in one of their education programs and it opened my eyes to the importance of keeping our amazing estuary clean and how my everyday actions affect the Bay. During that field experience, the CBF educators inspired me to want to teach others about our waterways too. I have witnessed and participated in many CBF educational programs since 6th grade. Students emerge from their Chesapeake Bay Foundation experiences with an appreciation for science and natural resources that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. The application of real data collection and analysis in the field with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation cannot be replicated by sitting in the classroom or watching videos.

I currently teach Earth Systems (a required science course for freshman in Baltimore County) and not a unit goes by without connecting our content material to the Chesapeake Bay.

Even during the pandemic, while I teach from my home kitchen, the CBF has continued to provide resources for teachers like me! I frequently use their educational videos and lessons for my own learning and during lessons with my students.

I recently learned that state funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Department was eliminated last year. This funding is critical for helping CBF continue to educate Maryland students and teachers like me. **PLEASE SUPPORT the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.**

Sincerely,
Jocelyn A. Tuttle
Perry Hall High School
1821 Cromwood Road
Parkville, MD 21234

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's State Environmental Education Contract

Dear General Assembly Members,

I wish to express how strongly I feel about Governor Hogan's decision to cut the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's education program budget for a second year in a row. I believe the Governor has made a tremendous mistake by making the decision not to fund an organization that offers the most authentic and effective environmental education in the state of Maryland. I can say this because as a career public school science teacher, I taught hundreds of students that were lucky enough to have experienced real world lifelong learning through CBF programs. These environmentally literate students, who now have children of their own, continue to reach out to me and express how they are passing on the knowledge they gained from their CBF experiences to their children. They and their children are our hope for a healthy functioning Chesapeake Bay which reflects a healthy functioning six state watershed.

CBF's educational programs are grounded in educational principles that deliver lifelong learning for both students, teachers, and the public. As a teacher, they provided the knowledge, experience, and resources for me to then engage and educate my students, no matter their ability or socioeconomic level. The knowledge they gained in the classroom and their CBF educational experiences empowered them to understand and make informed decisions about environmental issues then and now as adults.

During this time when our public schools are hard pressed to fund resources for teachers and valuable hands-on experiences for students, support from CBF is especially critical.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Patricia Moore Ghingher,
Retired Baltimore County Public School Teacher
901 Hillside View Rd.
Parkton, MD 21120

February 17, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members-

Please restore funding to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. This organization has positively impacted the environmental community as well as many school communities. Over the years, CBF has partnered with many schools giving teachers and students outstanding opportunities to explore and better understand the importance of The Bay and watershed. I was lucky enough to be a staff member at North Bend Elementary School when we were a Bay School. Teachers and students worked together to explore, learn, problem-solve, goal set, and plan to keep our environment a vibrant and welcoming place. The level of comradery that was formed when we all had a common interest was powerful and unforgettable.

I understand during uncertain times that funding can be a challenge but please reconsider the importance of CBF's educational programs for students especially after a global pandemic. Students who have just experienced a year of quarantine coupled with virtual instruction realize the importance of our environment and the need to protect our valuable resources like the Chesapeake Bay. Students have come to appreciate the outdoors because that has been their safe haven. With your help, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation can continue to provide educational programs and experiences for students so their appreciation for The Bay and our environment can be enhanced through hands-on learning, exploration, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. Thank you in advance for your consideration and thoughtful response.

Sincerely,

Kate DiNatale

Kate DiNatale
North Bend Elementary School
1445 North Bend Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Harford County

February 15, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

I am writing to tell you how important the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's education program is to myself and my students. I am in my 31st year of teaching and I have been working with CBF for most of those 31 years. They provide top quality education to my students – education that I would not be able to provide myself. I cannot take them out on the Bay, do water quality sampling, catch Bay animals and learn about them, or give them that firsthand knowledge of how important the Bay is to all of us and the impact they have on its health. I use CBF trips with all my science classes but particularly my Chesapeake Bay Watershed Science course where CBF plays a huge part. I run several programs with them because my students need that hands-on and minds-on challenge they provide. My students and myself feel more of a personal connection with the Bay through CBF -one I know would not have happened without them. It is imperative that they continue to have the ability to offer their programs – programs no other organization can provide.

PLEASE support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Respectfully,

Linn Lee Griffiths

3111 Harmony Church Road
Darlington, MD 21034
C. Milton Wright High School/Harford County

February 18, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

As education leaders of our communities, Howard County teachers and principals work hard every day to create meaningful learning experiences that go beyond the classroom and impact our students' lives. When I was an assistant principal at Hammond High School in Columbia I would see these kinds of transformative experiences happen for our science students every year, as they got the chance to join a Chesapeake Bay Foundation field investigation and do real science on a Chesapeake workboat, a canoe trip, or a stream investigation. Some of my students at Hammond High School students had never been out on the water before. Our students would return to the building talking about the trip for days and our teachers would use the trip as a focal point for their units of instruction in Biology.

As principal at Burleigh Manor Middle School, our science department makes outdoor environmental education a signature of our school program. Students' learning is deeper, richer, and more authentic when we can engage in the types of learning experiences like that created by The Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The benefits go far beyond academic learning as environmental education has benefits for social-emotional development and helps us build a sense of community among staff and students at BMMS. While the pandemic has put regular programming on hold, we are excited that CBF has redesigned their lessons to support our school in the virtual and hybrid learning settings and look forward to taking advantage of this programming.

I have personally seen the transformative power of outdoor education. I was shocked and greatly saddened to learn that Governor Hogan had cut all funding for CBF's education contract with Maryland Schools. For the benefit of Maryland students, **I urge you to support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding** in the MSDE budget.

Sincerely,

Mikaela R. Lidgard

Mikaela R. Lidgard
Principal
Burleigh Manor Middle School
Ellicott City, MD

Dear General Assembly Members,

Chesapeake Bay Foundation programs are fundamental to our ability to build the capacity of our teachers to instruct and engage thousands of students in environmental literacy and action. In addition, in a normal year hundreds of our students receive a first hand experience on the water learning about ecosystems in the best possible way. In this year of COVID, CBF joined our virtual Outdoor Ed team and is providing thousands of Grade 6 students the opportunity to learn about freshwater mussels from energized and fun CBF staff through a special virtual Zoom presentation. We need these programs to build an environmentally literate citizenry – programs that excite, engage, and teach students while building a connection to the environment that will last a lifetime.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Respectfully,

Laurie Jenkins

Laurie C. Jenkins
5602 Woodlyn Road
Frederick, MD 21703

Supervisor I MCPS Environmental Literacy K – 12
Montgomery County Public Schools
Outdoor Environmental Education Programs
5110 Meadows Lane | Derwood | MD 20855
Office Number: 240-740-1404
Twitter: @MCPSOutdoors Website:
<https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/outdoored/>

Dear General Assembly Members,

The most important lessons that I can offer to students are the ones that help them connect to their home - the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, and our planet. That connection is built through experiences that immerse them in the lore, the science, the history, and the sense of place they get when they go into the field with experts in those topics.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is made up of people who absolutely love our region, its history, and the science behind keeping it healthy. These are the people who take students into marshes for days at a time to teach them about biodiversity and how humans impact our environment. They teach students about the science of sea level rise, temperature and salinity changes, and threatened habitats, through student-driven inquiry. These are the people who devote their lives and careers to making sure that Marylanders know why the Chesapeake Bay is vital to the region, and they help children cultivate a love of place through experiential learning.

There is no greater experience I can offer my students than taking them to Smith Island to meet folks who can tell them about how their lives and livelihoods are dependent on the health of their environment. My students get a different perspective on life, economics, and the environment by listening and learning from people who live so close to the bay. Students from urban and suburban areas can't know about what life is like on the Eastern Shore or along the bay if they don't get the opportunity to experience it themselves.

The hectic, noisy days of my students' lives leave them stressed and unaware of how quiet nature can be. On a field experience with CBF, they learn that the smell of a marsh can be something that means productivity. They learn to connect the pieces of ecosystems by lying down in the grass and seeing the tiny things that make up the fundamental parts of life in our bay. They make memories that will connect them to the bay forever.

Failure to support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget will take away opportunities from students for which there are no substitutes. You can't learn how to connect with the bay just by reading about it. You can't learn to love the bay if you never get to be a part of it. CBF's Education Programs have helped thousands of Maryland children make deep connections to the bay and have helped them learn to love and care for their home. Please support CBF by restoring funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Dinerman
Honors Biology
AP Environmental Science
HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Teacher
Sherwood High School
Montgomery County
Maryland

Home address:
5601 Riggs Rd.
Laytonsville, MD
20882

February 19, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am a long-time participant of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Principal Leadership Program (PLP). My original opportunity to participate in the program was when I was a new principal at Summit Hall ES in Gaithersburg. My interest was prompted by a memorandum from the Montgomery County Public Schools' Outdoor and Environmental Educational Programs (OEEP). I had been associated with the program as a classroom teacher when I accompanied Grade 6 students to various sites in Maryland and Virginia for their outdoor education experience. After becoming a principal in 2003, I worked with my staff to work to becoming a Maryland Green School.

During the certification process, attending the PLP gave me a wealth of ideas to bring back to the staff. With help of OEEP staff and instructors from the local chapter of the Audubon Society, the school's lead teacher compiled an extensive record of student and staff experiences which was submitted to the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE). Our efforts were successful and in 2013 Summit Hall attained Green School status.

Later that year, the school was nominated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) Green Ribbon. After an additional compilation of the school's environmental experiences, the Green Ribbon was awarded to Summit Hall. The students and staff were thrilled and eagerly continued their efforts to live up the standards the awards represented. The school's accomplishments were prompted by my initial and ongoing relationship with the CBF. My experiences have allowed me to mentor administrators from the Chesapeake Bay watershed as they begin their work to save the Bay.

Students continue to use monitor the school's energy use. Because of energy conservation, the school system's School Energy Resource Team (SERT) regularly awards Summit Hall rebates that the school can use to support student learning. The older students supervise younger students by giving up their recess periods to assist them to distinguish trash recyclable materials.

In order to ensure future generations can rescue the world's endangered environment and improve our state's treasured Chesapeake Bay, we need to redouble our efforts to get young people personally involved. To keep these essential activities alive, educators and students must have individuals with the expertise to lead the way and the resources to carry the work forward. My personal plea is for you to support the restoration of the CBF's State-Aided Institution funding in the MSDE budget.

Yours truly,

Keith R. Jones
2018 Luzerne Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Retired Principal
Summit Hall ES Montgomery County Public Schools

Dear General Assembly Members,

I have been teaching middle schoolers for twenty-five years and have participated in lots of field trips. Our annual day at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with the sixth graders is a highlight of the school year, every year. The kids love it and learn a lot through hands-on activities that bring to life that they learn in the classroom.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Sincerely,

Liz Donelson
9202 Sudbury Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Sandy Spring Friends School
Montgomery County

February 17, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members:

I am writing to you to ask that you support the restoration of State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget - specifically for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Education Programs.

I teach in a PGCPSS middle school located in Landover, Maryland. Adjacent to our school property is a small stream and a wetland. We are part of the Anacostia Watershed. Over the past ten years we have collaborated with organizations like CBF, the Anacostia Watershed Society, and the William S. Schmidt Center to write curriculum, plant gardens, provide professional development opportunities for teachers, and take students on exciting field trips. We have done our best to implement the MSDE Environmental Literacy Standards because we believe they are important for our students to learn.

We have been working very hard to teach our students and faculty that human activity has direct consequences for our environment. CBF has played a vital and important role in this endeavor. Two of our teachers work with CBF over the summer to bring week-long professional development sessions to teachers throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Six of the teachers in our school have participated in these summer professional development opportunities. Our students have attended many field trips around the region to learn about how they can positively impact their environment. Over the past ten years, we've written two grants to access funds through the Chesapeake Bay Trust and over 1000 students have participated in Meaningful Watershed Experiences which brought them outdoors and into nature to experience place-based environmental education opportunities. We serve a diverse student population for whom these field trips are often their first opportunity to see the Chesapeake Bay which is less than 25 miles away. The Anacostia River is just five miles down Rt. 202. Our students crave these active, meaningful, real-life learning experiences.

CBF Education programs have been our partners, mentors, and inspiration for these powerful educational experiences. The Blueprint for Education promises to make sure that every student in every neighborhood has a great public school. CBF has been on this mission for the past several decades, and the results have been exceptional outdoor learning opportunities for adults and students. Nothing is more important than learning to live in a peaceful and healthy community. Learning to protect and care for our natural resources should be a #1 priority.

I own two homes. One in Virginia and one in Maryland - both are near or on the water. I grew up in Cape St. Claire, Maryland. I recall being a teenager in the 1970's, swimming in our local beaches and seeing dead fish floating in the water. We apparently were not smart enough then to know that we should protect our water quality, but I was starting to realize that if I did not personally care for my local environment - I had no one else to blame when it was stinky, dirty and unhealthy. I have made it my life's mission to teach children that they can make a difference in their local, national, and global communities. CBF helps me do that work every day.

I ask that you please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. The educational opportunities provided by CBF are vital to the long-term protection of our natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest regards,

Beth A. Novick
Beth Novick

Gifted Program Coordinator
Kenmoor Middle School | Prince George's County Public Schools | Landover, Md 20785

2.16.21

Dear General Assembly Members:

I have been a teacher with Prince George's County Public School, since August 2000. I began teaching at Kenmoor MS in Landover, Maryland in August 2019. Before that time, I taught at Lewisdale ES in Hyattsville, MD. In 2011, I took a two-week environmental workshop, which changed my life. During that time, I learned about the environmental issues facing our watershed. After that workshop, I began to explore many more opportunities to learn about the environment. Along the way, I learned about the important work conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. I also became a mentor teacher with them in 2013. As a mentor teacher, I continue to learn about the issues facing the Bay, plus I was able to bridge the gap between CBF's mission and the curriculum of PGCPs, by working with teachers in our county. During that time, I began to take my students to our local stream and conduct chemical, physical and biological testing with my students. I calculate that over 600 students benefited from what I learned from CBF and other environmental programs. Students were able to determine new career paths (water ecologist, microbiology), due to these rich experiences.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that environmental organizations, such as the CBF, provide many opportunities to learn about the environment and how our lives are impacted by it. Lewisdale ES is a Title 1 school, with many immigrants. Due to my relationship with the educators of CBF, my students learned about solid waste reduction and implemented a school wide recycling program completely run by fifth graders. Some students told me that they started recycling in their homes and talked to neighbors in their apartment buildings about the value of recycling material. No doubt, our visits to recycling centers, water treatment sites, and composting facilities (all organized by CBF), played a huge part in this awareness and willingness to act. Students also restored habitat in our school courtyard, which involved the whole community (parents/businesses/artists and the government agencies). We also did yearly clean up and green up activities in the community, at our school, and in the park where we did our water studies. Needless to say, these experiences were rich and memorable for our students.

Lastly, I strongly believe you should support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget. It is critical that the work CBF does through this funding is continued to meet the needs of all communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Wendy Rouget
18 Tabiona Court, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Teacher: Kenmoor MS/Prince George's County

February 16, 2021

Dear General Assembly Members,

I am writing to on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's environmental education programs to share the impact those programs have on students here at Gunston and beyond. Gunston has partnered with CBF for over twenty years to offer high quality and high impact environmental education. These experiences are embedded into our curriculum and responsible for the growing number of graduates pursuing environmental degrees and careers.

Though we are an independent school, over 65% of our students receive financial assistance in attending Gunston. Our Bay Studies program carries additional fees for families, fees that we are able to keep low through the support CBF receives from the Maryland State Department of Education budget. It has never been more important to financially support programs like CBF, that reach students across the state, and help to educate them on the pressing environmental threats in our region, including climate change. The hands-on, project based learning that CBF offers will be critical as we remediate the impacts of distance learning on our students.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Sincerely,
Emily Beck
Dean of Instruction and Innovation
The Gunston School
Centreville, MD 21617

Dear General Assembly Members,

As a Maryland resident and a Maryland educator, I have seen the countless hands-on learning opportunities for both students and teachers provided by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Even through the pandemic, CBF has evolved its' practice to reach teachers and their classes through a virtual lens. These experiences provide students and teachers with a deeper understanding not only of our state's ecosystem, but the vital importance of being good stewards of the environment. Participating in these opportunities opens eyes in a way that cannot be done through a school system's curriculum in a chair in the traditional classroom. Research shows us repeatedly the value of immersing oneself in a topic to truly understand and appreciate it, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation can do this through its many thoughtful and informative programs.

Not only does CBF provide opportunities to teachers and staff, but also to administrators. In 2017, I had the privilege of joining fellow administrators across the state on Smith Island. This experience gave me an opportunity to learn about island life, other schools' efforts to involve their students in CBF opportunities as well as gain a better understanding of the state's Green School process. My few days on Smith Island gave me an appreciation for the primitive state of the island, its history and its people as well reinforce the need to conserve it while bringing non-islanders to see the value of their way of life and dependency on the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is our most valuable natural resource in the state of Maryland, and we know that as goes the health of the bay- so goes the health of the bay state. The goal of Chesapeake Bay Foundation is to educate our state and our children on the importance of the bay, the value it brings to our state and neighboring states, as well as the importance of conserving its species and their habitats. School systems are charged with presenting specific curriculum to students, and CBF serves as an exceptional supplement to enhance students' understanding of a variety of scientific concepts, as well as key concepts in social sciences. Without CBF's educational programs, there is a significant gap in our students' understanding of the need to be good stewards of our environment. Through CBF's learning experiences, students and school staff can take part in unforgettable learning opportunities which will stay with them for a lifetime.

Please support the restoration of CBF's State Aided Institution funding in the Maryland State Department of Education budget.

Megan Shea Burton
20003 Cherry Hill Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21742
Assistant Principal at South Hagerstown High School, Washington County Public Schools

Megan Burton | Assistant Principal
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