



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 876

Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment

Date: March 30, 2022

Position: Support

To: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 876 which establishes a Maryland Forestry Education Fund to enhance and expand Maryland Forestry Foundation's education programs for forest landowners.

Much of Maryland's forests are 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 876 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 agriculture. 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 876. For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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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.