



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 866

Special Vehicle Registration Plates - Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation - Appropriation

Date: March 7, 2023	Position: Favorable with Amendments
To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee	From: Matt Stegman, MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENT** SB 866 which would require the Governor to make an annual appropriation to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) in the event revenue for these programs is reduced because of the introduction of additional commemorative vehicle license plates. CBF supports anticipated amendments to ensure revenues for both organizations remain stable so they can continue their missions to engage Marylanders in the protection and enhancement of our environmental and agricultural resources.

Both the Trust and MAEF were established via government initiative. Neither were designed on a general fund appropriation model; rather, their important missions have been supported by private revenues generated by commemorative vehicle license plates (the “bay plate” and the “ag tag”). These two plates have been the only two commemorative plates in Maryland for 23 years, which has kept their revenues stable. Without legislative action, as more background scene plates become available, revenues generated by existing plates will decline imperiling the great work done by both organizations.

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on SB 866.

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.