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Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 866 – Special Vehicle Registration Plates - Chesapeake Bay Trust and
Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation – Appropriation
March 7, 2023
1:00 PM
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 866 – Special Vehicle Registration Plates - Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation – Appropriation.**

Senate Bill 866 is a companion bill to Senate Bill 867 – The Maryland Heroes Plate legislation - which almost every member of this committee cosponsored. Senate Bill 866 would ensure that the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) would not lose revenue due to declining license plate sales.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and MAEF's operations are almost entirely dependent on the revenue generated from the sale and renewal of their current special license plates. This bill is intended to create a more sustainable funding source for these two entities in case of declining sales, providing more longevity for their existence and grant programs.

The amendments being offered are a calculation based on the average revenue generated from the FY17-FY22 levels and tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Should the revenue from a fiscal year be less than the average from before the new plate is introduced, the Governor shall include an appropriation in their annual budget to make up the lost monies.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 866. Thank you for your kind consideration.