



## National Wildlife Federation

Mid-Atlantic Regional Center  
151 West Street, Suite 101 • Annapolis, MD 21401 • 443-759-3400

**Date:** March 3, 2023

**Bill:** SB 866, Special Vehicle Registration Plates – Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation - Appropriation

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The National Wildlife Federation respectfully requests a favorable report for **SB 866 – Special Vehicle Registration Plates – Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation – Appropriation**, with a revenue calculation amendment, which will ensure that state funding for the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) and the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) remains stable as additional background scene/commemorative vehicle license plates become available to vehicle owners in Maryland in coming years.

Founded in 1936, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is one of the country's oldest and largest conservation organizations. NWF's Mid-Atlantic Regional Center, based in Annapolis, Maryland, works closely with state and local partners to protect and restore wildlife habitat and to support resilient, healthy communities across the state, and throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Over the years, funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust has allowed NWF to work directly with communities in Baltimore City, Prince George's County, Howard County and others to install green stormwater infrastructure and coastal resilience projects, plant native pollinator habitat, increase equitable access to nearby nature, and educate and engage K-12 students, teachers, and the broader community.

The grant programs administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust help to support the critical work of nearly 350 community-based groups to reduce pollution and clean up our rivers and streams, restore thriving natural habitats, improve access to local green spaces, and foster the next generation of conservation leaders. In the past year alone, the Trust's grantmaking resulted in the installation of almost 300,000 native trees, pollinator plants, marsh grasses, and other native plants; the release of over 4 million oysters; the creation of almost 48,000 square feet of rain gardens; and the engagement of close to 27,000 students and 1,800 teachers.

Providing stable funding for the Trust, augmenting any "Bay Plate" revenue declines as new license plates become available in the future, will help ensure the ongoing success of these grant programs and the direct benefits they provide to communities throughout the state. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony and respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 866.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mihills  
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center  
443-759-3403 | [mihillsj@nwf.org](mailto:mihillsj@nwf.org)