



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading  
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## Maryland Department of Agriculture

### Legislative Comment

**Date: March 30, 2023**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 866

**SHORT TITLE:** Special Vehicle Registration Plates - Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation - Appropriation

**MDA POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) and the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) were established via government initiative without a designated general funding appropriation in the State Budget. SB 866, if passed with amendments, ensures that the revenues managed by the Trust and MAEF remain stable as additional commemorative vehicle license plates become available to vehicle owners in Maryland in coming years.

The important missions of these organizations have been supported by private revenues generated by commemorative vehicle license plates, referred to as the "Bay Plate" and "Ag Tag". These two plates have been the only commemorative license plates in Maryland for 23 years, keeping each program's revenues stable. The Chesapeake Bay Trust utilizes their funding to improve Chesapeake Bay watersheds and the Maryland Agricultural Education Fund utilizes the revenue to increase agricultural literacy and education. Two necessary causes for the sustainment and preservation of our environment and a thriving agricultural industry.

The addition of any commemorative tag may cause revenues of existing plates to drop. SB 866 with an amendment to establish a revenue calculation to benchmark the annual revenue managed by the Trust and (MAEF) to FY17-FY22 levels would keep these revenues stable for years to come.

MDA supports SB 866 and thanks you for your consideration of a favorable report.

**If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at [Rachel.Jones2@maryland.gov](mailto:Rachel.Jones2@maryland.gov) or (667) 408-0134.**