



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## House Bill 1314

### Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay Trust - Urban Trees Program

**Date:** March 6, 2026

**To:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**Position:** **Favorable**

**From:** Matt Stegman,  
MD Staff Attorney

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **supports House Bill 1314**, which extends the mandate of the successful Urban Trees Program administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The program was established as part of the landmark Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021 and ensures state investment in increased tree canopy is done equitably in urban communities.

Forests provide critical habitat for birds, mammals, and pollinators. They connect ecosystems through wildlife corridors, stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and absorb stormwater creating healthier, more resilient environments for both wildlife and people. In cities and suburbs, trees do more than beautify – they cool streets, lower energy bills, and make neighborhoods more resilient to climate change. They clean the air, increase property values, and deliver thousands of dollars in environmental benefits every year.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1314.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto: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 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*