



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Senate Bill 754 Land Use - Preservation of Natural Resources

Date: April 2, 2026
To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**
From: Matt Stegman,
Maryland Staff Attorney

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 754**, allows local governments to adopt land-use regulations requiring the preservation of natural resources through conservation or preservation easements, transfer of development rights, open space or agricultural land preservation programs and other mechanisms.

The authority granted to a local government under the bill is largely already available to them, and the section of the code impacted by the bill does not limit a local government's authority to facilitate orderly growth and development. Indeed, the bill makes explicit what many local governments already know and put into practice: that development and conservation can work in tandem to inform land use policies.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 189. For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

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.