



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 398 – SUPPORT

11 February 2020

Delegate Barve and Members of the
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 398**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a 501(c)4 social welfare organization, incorporated in the State of Maryland. We are an alliance of sixteen organizations representing over 100,000 members, about one fourth of Maryland's Veterans. Our coalition partners and signatories are listed on the following page.

Our mission is to advocate in the Maryland general assembly and throughout Maryland state government in order to improve the benefits and quality of life programs for Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

We believe that House Bill 398 meets our goal of supporting efforts that encourage Veteran entrepreneurship.

As you know, this bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to applications for loans that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and **Veteran-owned businesses** for loans for certain net-zero homes under the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Loan Program.

This measure will help ensure Veteran-owned businesses' competitiveness in the Clean Energy Sector.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 398 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian T. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian T. Smith
Vice President
BTSmith1184@outlook.com

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars