



January 22, 2020

Senator Bryan Simonaire
320 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21412

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your consideration of Maryland Senate Bill 86 – *Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting*. I'm writing this letter to provide my full endorsement for this legislation to memorialize the opportunity to preserve fishing in Maryland. Although fishing plays an important part in the state's economy by contributing to tax revenues and employment and supports the conservation, preservation, and management of the state's fisheries, natural areas, and water resources, it also provides a remarkable setting for our participants to heal from their wounds, illnesses, and injuries incurred in the defense of our great nation.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc, (PHWFF) is a nationwide nonprofit veteran service organization incorporated in 2007 in Maryland. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

We envision a community where all participants can heal.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. holds the following core values as central to our success:

- **Compassion** – Our organization enables the physical and emotional recovery of our participants as it restores the bond of trust that they built while serving this great Nation.
- **Accountability** – Our organization remains accountable to our participants, to our volunteers, to our sponsors, and to our donors.
- **Excellence** – Our organization reliably provides high-quality programs for all volunteers and participants based-upon well-understood standards of excellence.
- **Community** – Our organization creates a sense of family by mentoring and supporting one another with dignity, passion, respect, and humility.

Our corporate headquarters is in LaPlata, Maryland where we lead and manage more than 230 programs across the country serving over 8,400 participants. PHWFF is primarily a volunteer organization with more than 4,000 volunteers nationwide. Our headquarters includes 15 paid employees. Our strategic plan includes expanding our programs and revenue to support over 35,000 participants nationwide over the next 10 years.

We currently conduct five programs in Maryland in the following locations: Bethesda, Fort Meade, LaPlata, Frederick, and Perry Point. We with many more currently under development. PHWFF programs provide services to 329 participants in the National Capital area with 87 of these participants living in Maryland. Providing fishing licenses at no cost to our disabled veteran participants will allow us to provide revenue normally spent on these items for use in other program activities. Our PHWFF programs currently include five core activities:

1. Fly Tying
2. Fly Rod Building
3. Fly Casting
4. Fly Fishing Education
5. Fly Fishing Outings

We provide our program activities at no cost to our participants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide your committee with this letter to support this important legislation.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd S. Desgrosseilliers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd S. Desgrosseilliers
President & Chief Executive Officer

HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE