



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 142 (SB 142) - *Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund*. This legislation establishes a process for authorizing the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund for grants to eligible sponsor organizations that provide recreational hunting or fishing opportunities for disabled veterans and others as identified in the Bill's narrative. I'm writing this letter to provide my full endorsement for this legislation to recognize and honor the sacrifices of military veterans that become disabled during their service to 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 8400 participants. PHWFF is primarily a volunteer organization with more than 4000 volunteers nationwide. Our headquarters includes 14 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

Providing fishing licenses at no cost to our disabled veteran participants will also eliminate the administrative tasks of obtaining fishing licenses prior to any fly fishing outings in Maryland.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our to support this important legislation in support of our nation's veterans.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd S. Desgrosseilliers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd S. Desgrosseilliers
President & Chief Executive Officer

HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE