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February 7, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East - Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 443 – Monument Protection Act of 2021
Monument Protection Act


Dear Mr. Chairman;

I am a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), Sons of the American Legion (SAL - membership pending approval), a motorcyclist, a coastal engineer, a farmer, and a registered voter in Maryland. As you may have figured out, I have a rather diverse background, my ancestors fought on both sides of the Civil War, and in many wars and conflicts before and afterwards. I also enjoy learning about all sides of history and frequently visit parks and other properties that have historical monuments and memorials.

Regarding SB 443 - Crimes - Malicious Destruction of Historically Significant Monument (Monument Protection Act of 2021). This bill will help to deter vandalism and other criminal acts that have been occurring in recent history. I understand that some may not like or appreciate the symbolism or content of a particular monument. However, that is not a good reason to damage or destroy it. History is the good, the bad and the ugly of our past. It cannot change just because it does not fit a narrative. It helps to explain how our nation was formed and the trials and tribulations that came along with that process. What is offensive to some may be interesting and valuable to others. We cannot make everyone happy, that is an effort destined to fail. We can try to learn and understand history. That will provide us with information upon which to make new decisions to move forward.

I am expressing my support for SB 443 – The Monument Protection Act of 2021 and urge the Committee to vote favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth B. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being the most prominent.

Kenneth B. Eaton
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