

March 4, 2025

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
Chair Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,  
Please allow me to offer my enthusiastic support for SB 781!

My family owns the property being considered as a catalyst for what hopefully could become the First State Park in the Country Dedicated to Veterans Care. In many respects this property and the plans we envision could be a perfect fit in addressing at least 2 of Governor Moore's priorities... Veterans and mental health!

Creating a task force to study the fiscal impact is necessary as I believe we can demonstrate how such a bold endeavor can be accomplished with minimal financial impact while having a great return on investment.

In addition to partnering with Veterans organizations which may be able to promote, fundraise and utilize the property, we believe the property brings lots of additional benefits. The state could certainly use more trailhead access. The parking lot across the road which serves the Weverton Cliffs section of the Appalachian Trail is definitely over capacity most weekends as cars are parked along both sides of the road and there is heavy family/pedestrian traffic. The federal "rails to trails" initiative could be extended using the abandoned railroad trellis' and rights of way via our property.

When the property isn't being used for Veterans retreats or events, the County and State will have a wonderful asset to be utilized as everyone deems appropriate.

This property has such an ideal location as it's literally steps away from 2 National Parks, The Appalachian Trail and The C&O Canal. Just across the Potomac River is Harper's Ferry. It is served by 3 international airports, Washington Dulles is 38 miles, Reagan is 60 miles, BWI is 67 miles and it's also serviced by the MARC train with the station in Brunswick, Md.

Once again, I enthusiastically support the creation of a task force to study the potential creation of The First State Park Dedicated to Veterans Care. Please know that I am pleased to provide any additional information you require.

Sincerely,



William Armstrong, CIPS GRI MRP AHWD  
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