

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 21, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair Education, Energy, and the Environment 2 West Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for Senate Bill 781—Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care

Dear Senator Feldman:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County (the "Board") unanimously support the passage of SB 781. As currently drafted, SB 781 would create a task force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veteran's Care.

The purpose of this task force is to study issues and estimated costs related to establishing a state park dedicated to providing recreational opportunities and therapeutic services to veterans. The Task Force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than December 1, 2026, and the bill calls for its own abrogation on June 30, 2027.

The Board supports this bill as written. Presently, a landowner wishes to donate acreage located in Southern Washington County in order to help establish the country's first state park dedicated to veteran care. Early plans for the facility would include cabins for private veteran retreats, an amphitheater, and other facilities specifically designed to cater to and support veterans.

Passage of SB 781 will initiate the process to determine the practicality and feasibility of establishing this state park. Accordingly, the Board strongly supports the passage of SB 781.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

John F. Barr, President