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Environment and
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The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2025

Testimony In Support of HB 1181 - Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 1181 to you today. HB 1181 establishes a Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care. This bill is designed to honor the service of our veterans by exploring the creation of a state park focused on providing recreational opportunities and therapeutic services tailored specifically to Veteran's needs.

Our Veterans, who have given so much in service to our country, face unique challenges when returning to civilian life. Many veterans experience physical and mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and physical injuries, which can make reintegration into society difficult. This proposed park would serve as a sanctuary—offering not only recreational activities but also therapeutic services that can help improve their quality of life.

The Task Force will assess the costs, funding models, and operational structures necessary to make this park a reality. Furthermore, the Task Force will develop a clear action plan for the next steps, including funding options and sustainable operational models, making sure the park can continue to serve our veterans well into the future.

The proposed park not only represents a tangible way to care for our veterans, but it also exemplifies our commitment to ensuring that Maryland is a state that values the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military. The impact of such a facility would be profound, providing a peaceful space for healing and community for those who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1181.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry L. Baker".

Delegate Terry Baker