



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### HOUSE BILL 398 – SUPPORT

11 February 2020

Delegate Barve and Members of the  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 398**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a 501(c)4 social welfare organization, incorporated in the State of Maryland. We are an alliance of sixteen organizations representing over 100,000 members, about one fourth of Maryland's Veterans. Our coalition partners and signatories are listed on the following page.

Our mission is to advocate in the Maryland general assembly and throughout Maryland state government in order to improve the benefits and quality of life programs for Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

**We believe that House Bill 398 meets our goal of supporting efforts that encourage Veteran entrepreneurship.**

As you know, this bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to applications for loans that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and **Veteran-owned businesses** for loans for certain net-zero homes under the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Loan Program.

This measure will help ensure Veteran-owned businesses' competitiveness in the Clean Energy Sector.

**The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 398 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.**

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

Brian T. Smith  
Vice President  
BTSmith1184@outlook.com

**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

*James P. Monahan*  
Air Force Sergeants Association

*Stacy P. May*  
American Military Society

*Lynn A. Nash*  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

*Wilbert B. Forbes*  
Disabled American Veterans

*Sheldon Goldberg*  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

*Pleasala J. Collins*  
Fleet Reserve Association

*Evan A. Buttrick*  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

*Steve L. Bloodgood*  
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'  
Association

*Harvey Kaplan*  
Military Officers Association of America

*Charles Egbert*  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

*Mervyn Rice*  
National Association for Black Veterans

*Michael P. Hays*  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

*Christian Andreasen*  
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

*Catherine L. McGraw*  
Society of Military Widows

*Arthur L. Cooper*  
The Retired Enlisted Association

*Thomas C. Williams*  
Veterans of Foreign Wars