



Saint Louis County

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Paul McDonald

House Veterans and Military Affairs Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
Rep. Matt Bliss, Chair
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 24, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for Veterans on the Lake Resort

Dear Chair Bliss and Members of the House Veterans and Military Affairs Division,

I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota House File 648 (Skraba) and the yet to be introduced bill you are hearing informationally today. Both bills provide critical appropriation funding for Veterans on the Lake Resort in Ely, Minnesota. This initiative represents a significant investment in the well-being and recovery of our disabled veterans, and I applaud your consideration of this essential measure.

Veterans on the Lake has long demonstrated its commitment to serving those who have sacrificed so much for our country. The resort's mission is rooted in providing a safe, supportive, and healing environment where disabled veterans can access comprehensive care, recreational therapy, and a welcoming community. Through its tailored programs, Veterans on the Lake not only offers much-needed respite but also fosters personal growth and reintegration into civilian life. This work is particularly vital for veterans facing unique challenges related to physical injuries and mental health concerns, helping them regain independence, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose.

The funding appropriated through House File 648 is essential to ensuring that Veterans on the Lake can continue to deliver high-quality services, maintain its facilities, and expand its capacity to serve an increasing number of veterans in need. The scholarship/grant program you are hearing informationally today is also an important program that has been in place since the legislature created the program in 2021.

By supporting both pieces of legislation, you are not only affirming Minnesota's commitment to the care of its veterans but also investing in a model of holistic recovery that has already proven effective and transformative.

I commend the dedicated team at Veterans on the Lake for their unwavering commitment to our veterans. Their efforts serve as a reminder of the profound impact that a supportive community can have on the healing process. I respectfully urge the House Veterans and Military Affairs Division to vote in favor of these two measures, thereby ensuring that our disabled veterans continue to receive the support and care they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I am confident that these appropriations will further empower Veterans on the Lake to continue their outstanding work and positively impact the lives of many Minnesota veterans.

Sincerely,

Paul McDonald