

18 March 2018

Ohio Senate C/O Mr. Mike Miller, Chief, Division of Wildlife Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2045 Morse Road Columbus, OH 43229-669

Senators,

The purpose of this letter is to compel the Ohio Senate to consider passing legislation to provide exceptions that will allow Fallen Hero Families and Veterans, especially Combat Injured Veterans special access and use of our Ohio State Parks and Facilities for providing fun and healing outdoor adventures, preferable at no charge.

Our small non-profit has facilitated outdoor experiences in Ohio for well over 100 combat injured warriors and fallen hero families, and we have found outdoor experiences to be tremendously helpful in created an environment for bonding and healing happen, and grief is put in the past.

Every year we include night bow fishing adventures as part of our Warrior Weekend to Remember. We have found that these experiences directly and positively impact PTSD and we would expect it reduces veteran suicide rates. Of course, we have not hard evidence to show that someone did or did not commit suicide because of the adventures we provide, but we do know that our Warrior Weekend to Remember puts a smile on their faces and grows their support network.

Please see the attached testimonials from Warrior Weekend to Remember 2017, night bow fishing is a major element of the weekend. We conducted night bow fishing operations on Caesar Creek. You can read via the testimonials how powerful these experiences are and how they facilitate and enable the bonding and healing.

Blue Skies!

David Hart, Co-Founder/Chairman Ohio Citizen, US Army Veteran, 1/75 Rangers 1983-1986, Ohio Army National Guard 77th Pathfinders 1986-1991

Questions can be directed to David Hart, <u>dhart@warriorwtr.com</u> – 513-907-6805