The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for S. 2138, *Small-Dollar and Veterans Loans Enhancement Act*.

The American Legion supports legislation which reduces the cost of the SBA's Veterans Advantage Express Loans by allowing the continuation of fee waivers when appropriations are provided. Fee waivers make it easier for veteran-owned businesses to gain access to capital.

The programmatic fees for SBA's 7(a) loans are usually 3 percent of the loan value, which are typically added to the loan. Considering the interest rates and the time it takes to repay these loans, it can cost the borrowers thousands of dollars more over the course of the loan. Providing a fee waiver for veteran-owned small businesses is a simple and effective way of supporting veteran entrepreneurship.

This bill's intent is consistent with the nation's goal of building the veteran small business industrial base and consistent with The American Legion's Resolution No. 313: Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans. The elimination of the 7(a) loan guarantee fees for veterans is a step in the right direction in protecting our veteran entrepreneurs.

The American Legion supports passage of this legislation, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's service members and veterans.

For God & Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford

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National Commander
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