

SENATOR RICHARD BURR'S STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD ON THE LEGISLATIVE  
MARKUP OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

October 2, 2018

I would like to thank the committee for holding a markup of S.569, the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF. Senator Cantwell and I introduced this legislation at the beginning of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress in hopes of permanently authorizing and fully funding the program before its September 30<sup>th</sup> expiration. Unfortunately, we've passed that deadline and it is more important than ever for this legislation to be voted out of committee and permitted a floor vote.

LWCF is a dedicated and permanent means for the conservation and protection of America's irreplaceable natural, historic, cultural and outdoor landmarks. Over its 50-plus year history, the LWCF has conserved iconic landscapes in every state and is responsible for more than 42,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects. It is far and away our nation's most important conservation program. It is paid for using a very small percentage of oil drilling receipts, not taxpayer dollars.

Hunters and anglers, birdwatchers, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and all who appreciate access to our magnificent public lands agree: LWCF is crucial to their shared conservation goals. In addition to giving Americans opportunities to breathe in some fresh air, the U.S. outdoor recreation economy generates \$887 billion in consumer spending, and \$65 billion in federal tax revenue, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. The LWCF is a boon for local communities, and this markup is a great step towards the ultimate goal of permanent reauthorization with full fund.

The broad, bipartisan support the LWCF enjoys speaks to the universal appeal of America's parks and lands, and the common cause we share in preserving them. LWCF's advocates not only span the political spectrum, they also come from virtually every corner of the country, whether North Carolina, Montana, Colorado or Washington. If support for this program is far-reaching, that is because the work LWCF does is far-reaching, as well.

I appreciate the Committee's attention to the matter and look forward to getting S.569 passed by the Senate in the near future.