

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to request that you permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and provide it with fully dedicated funding in a must-pass bill before the end of the fiscal year. As you know, this critical initiative will expire at that time.

The LWCF is one of the country's best conservation programs, preserving public lands and ensuring access to outdoor recreation in rural and urban areas. For the last half century, it has protected lands, historic sites, national parks, wilderness areas, and urban parks in every state. LWCF has supported more than 42,000 state and local projects. It is critical to protecting natural resource lands and working forests, providing outdoor recreation opportunities and hunting and fishing access, ensuring wildlife habitat, creating urban parks, and protecting our cultural heritage. Investments in this program help our nation's outdoor recreation, conservation, and preservation businesses, which support millions of American jobs and contribute \$887 billion annually to the economy. It is critical that this program be reauthorized before its expiration on September 30, 2018.

Each year, a portion of the federal oil and gas royalties received into the Treasury from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) are deposited in LWCF, which was designed not to use taxpayer dollars. However, since the creation of LWCF in 1965, more than \$21 billion from the LWCF trust fund has been diverted from its original conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. Reauthorizing LWCF as a permanent program with secure funding before September 30th is essential to maintain the deposits into LWCF, ensure funding to meet imminent threats to our national parks and public lands, and provide critical public access and outdoor opportunities that our communities need.

For the economy, sportsmen, veterans, wildlife, and our kids and grandkids, we must permanently reauthorize LWCF. We also strongly request that you include mandatory full funding in any LWCF reauthorization package. We look forward to working with you to resolve this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator



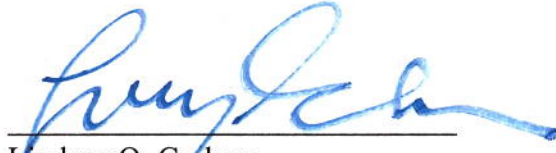
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



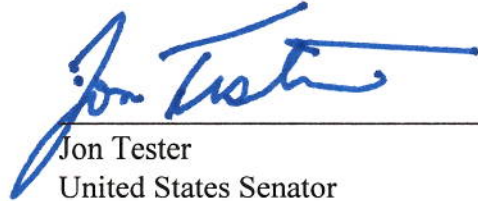
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



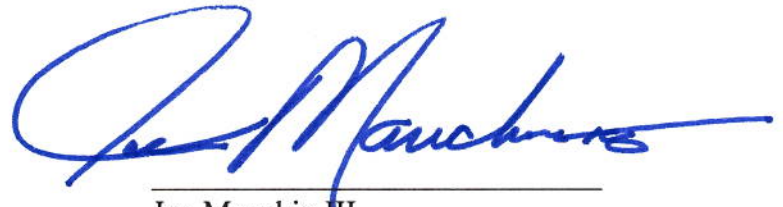
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Angus S. King
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