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Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Support LWCF Grants for City Parks

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition applauds Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44) and Michael Turner (R-OH-10) for supporting access to America’s urban public parks through introduction of H.R. 4512, the Outdoors for All Act. The bipartisan legislation would create a dedicated funding source for urban park projects that open outdoor recreation opportunities to underserved areas in cities across the country.

The Outdoors for All Act is the companion legislation of S. 1458, introduced by Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) on May 14, 2019.

“Guaranteeing funding for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program will ensure that we are confronting head-on the lack of access to outdoor recreation and greenspace that too many communities face, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved by the status quo. State and local assistance programs have always been a key component of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Today, more people reside in cities than ever before, and our investments in outdoor recreation and greenspace need to meet the growing urban demand,” said Jonathan Asher, Government Relations Director at The Wilderness Society and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition. “This is another example of the broad, bipartisan support for parks and public lands and we count on the United States Congress to ensure access to outdoor recreation for all Americans.”

“Far too many people in the United States lack access to a close-to-home park or green space, and entire generations of children are growing up without experiencing the immense benefits of nature,” said Diane Regas, President and CEO of The Trust for Public Land. “Access to quality parks will make our cities healthier, safer and more connected, and is essential for all residents. The Outdoors for All Act will help us get there, and I’m thrilled that Representatives Barragán and Turner have introduced this important legislation.”

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About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America's most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, and the continued historic preservation of our nation's iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast.

LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is comprised of more than 1,000 state and regional conservation and recreation organizations of all sizes, land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, the outdoor recreation industry and conservationists working together to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for full, dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, working lands and state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that LWCF funds have protected, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.