



LWCFCoalition.org

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Bipartisan Coalition of Senators Call For Continued Funding of Land and Water Conservation Program

Letter led by Shaheen, Burr, Collins, Tester, Gardner and Bennet urge continued commitment to outdoor access for all Americans

(Washington, DC) – A bipartisan coalition of 48 senators are urging the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy Program, the nation’s federal conservation program, as they begin considerations for the upcoming fiscal year. The letter was led by U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Richard Burr (R-NC), Susan Collins (R-ME), Jon Tester (D-MT), Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Michael Bennet (D-CO). The LWCF and Forest Legacy Program has funded more than 40,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects in all fifty states and have protected more than 2.5 million acres of land.

“From protecting wildlife habitat, natural resource lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels, to expanding hunting and fishing access, the LWCF and Forest Legacy conserve important lands for current and future generations,” wrote the senators. “Continued investments in these programs help our nation’s outdoor recreation, conservation and preservation economy, which supports millions of American jobs and contributes billions of dollars annually to the entire U.S. economy.”

The senators continued, “The programs funded by the LWCF, including Forest Legacy, the state-side program, endangered species grants, and battlefield protection, provide a diverse array of conservation tools to address national, state, local and regionally driven priorities across the country... Moreover, Forest Legacy supports working forest projects that help critical timberlands forested and accessible, and provides jobs in rural communities.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 established one of America’s most successful conservation programs that supports the nation’s land, water, historic and recreational heritage. The program also supports America’s outdoor recreation, conservation and preservation economies, which contribute more than \$1 trillion to the nation’s economy each year and support 9.4 million American jobs. The Forest Legacy Program assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands

The senators’ letter can be found [here](#).

Other senators who signed the letter are: Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tom Carper (D-DE), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Steve Daines (R-MT), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Gary Peters (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), Edward Markey (D-MA), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Michael Crapo (R-ID), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Al Franken (D-MN), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Angus King (I-ME), James Risch (R-ID), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chris Coons (D-DE), Kamala Harris (D-CA), Jack Reed (D-RI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Mark Warner (D-VA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), and Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV).

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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, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities 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 a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, outdoor recreationists and conservation organizations working to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the reauthorization and full 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, as well as state and local parks.

For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org