



LWCFCoalition.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 26, 2018

CONTACT: Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 789-4365

jbartolomeo@hdmk.org

Senator Schumer Calls on Senate to #SaveLWCF

CATSKILL, New York -- U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today called on the Senate to immediately reauthorize and fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Noting that LWCF provides critical funding that protects natural areas, water resources, and historical sites in upstate New York, Senator Schumer said the expiration of LWCF threatens both conservation efforts and the outdoor recreational economy in Greene County and across the nation. **Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy** and a national spokesman for the LWCF Coalition commented on Senator Schumer's remarks today:

“Senator Schumer is exactly right. Investments in land and water conservation are drivers for economic growth, jobs, tourism and quality of life in upstate New York and across the country. Conservation leaders, hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of engaged citizens join Senator Schumer in his urgent call to save LWCF.

“Without spending a dime of our tax dollars, LWCF boosts water quality, supports agriculture and forestry on private lands and provides habitat for fish and wildlife. It also provides public access to public lands, allowing everyone to enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities in the parks and places that belong to all of us.

“Inexplicably, Congress allowed LWCF, America's most important conservation and recreation program, to expire in September, breaking a more than 50 year old commitment to all Americans and the places we love. This was an avoidable crisis, and one that can be easily remedied. There are majorities in both the House and Senate that would vote for a permanent solution for LWCF if leaders would simply allow a vote. Bipartisan champions of the program, as well as thousands of constituents and stakeholders across the country, have repeatedly called on congressional leaders to take action.

“The outdoor recreation industry, governors, mayors, sportsmen, small business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, and millions of Americans will continue to push Congress to permanently reauthorize and provide dedicated funding for America's most important conservation program this year. We deeply appreciate Senator Schumer's commitment to the cause and we will not rest until Congress gets the job done.”

###

About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America's most important conservation and recreation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local levels. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities and the continued historic preservation 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 the umbrella group of more than 1,400 state and local land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, outdoor recreationists, historical preservationists 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 conserved using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.