

October 1, 2018

Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write to thank you for your leadership in considering legislation that would permanently reauthorize and dedicate full funding for the recently expired Land and Water Conservation Fund. Your continued leadership on this issue is important, and we look forward to swift action on this critical program. We represent organizations that care deeply about the Land and Water Conservation Fund and implement the program on the ground in every state and community in the country.

We are supportive of your efforts to move S. 569 forward to ensure that LWCF receives the dedicated funding that we have sought for many years, allowing for funding certainty that states and communities need to plan their recreation needs most effectively. This is particularly important as other new uses of dedicated outer continental shelf revenues (OCS) are being proposed in other legislation also being considered by your Committee. We believe that the original commitment of OCS revenues to LWCF must be honored at the same time that you commit these revenues for new purposes.

Our organizations support no less than 40 percent of the total allocation for the stateside program, and view it as a vital component of a reauthorization. We are therefore very encouraged by recent action in the House Natural Resources Committee to advance H.R. 502 – permanent reauthorization of LWCF - with bipartisan support from Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva. The bill reported out by the Committee includes a funding allocation formula with a 40 percent floor for the stateside program. We look forward to working with you on a conference agreement that addresses this issue in a way that meets the full spectrum of LWCF needs.

As you know, other legislation that has been considered has not ensured dedicated full funding for LWCF that we and many other organizations have long sought. We hope that S. 569 can move through the Committee with bipartisan recognition of the vital importance of this cornerstone conservation program, so that we can work together to come to agreement on a final bill as soon as possible.

Again, we are thankful for your consideration of LWCF reauthorization and dedicated funding legislation this week. Our organizations look forward to working with you as you work towards a final compromise that permanently reauthorizes LWCF with a dedicated funding source. We stand ready to help you move it across the finish line this Congress.

Sincerely,

National Recreation and Park Association
American Planning Association
National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
America Walks
National Association of State Park Directors