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## NASORLO Position on the Land and Water Conservation Fund

### PREAMBLE

The National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO), official appointees of the States' Governors, administer the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program (LWCF) throughout the United States and US Territories. Since 1965, approximately 2.6 million acres of park and conservation lands have been preserved in perpetuity while outdoor recreation opportunities grew at 29,000 locations across our country.

**WHEREAS**, over the past 50 years the LWCF Act created to one of the most successful federal and state partnerships in history, which stimulated hundreds of millions of dollars from private, local and state sources matching federal funds for outdoor recreation projects;

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO), met September 25, 2014 in Vancouver, Washington, for purposes of discussion of the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act;

**WHEREAS**, on September 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson, signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, passed by the United States Congress, to provide urban and rural outdoor recreation opportunities on state, federal and local lands for all Americans. When the Act was passed by Congress its purpose was to provide outdoor recreation for Americans in close to home locations, guaranteeing that sixty percent (60%) of the Act's funds were to be dedicated to the states and territories;

**WHEREAS**, the Act was later amended to eliminate the 60% guarantee of the state's LWCF share, though, with guarantees of not less than 40 percent of annual appropriations for federal LWCF project purposes;

**WHEREAS**, over 40,000 grants to states and localities were awarded LWCF State Assistance Program funds for acquisition, development and planning of outdoor recreation opportunities. These grants represent an investment of \$4.2 billion in LWCF assistance, matched with private, local and state sources representing a minimum \$8.4 billion local investment resulting in the creation of state and local parks that continue today to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities readily accessible to America's youth, adults, senior citizens and the physically or mentally challenged;

**WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act will expire in September 2015, and assessments by the National Park Service show significant unmet needs for outdoor recreation in state, local and urban areas;

**WHEREAS**, NASORLO looks forward to working with all interested stakeholders, including the nation's Governors, Congress and the Administration to create a mutually agreeable strategy to achieve the legislative reauthorization, and, fairness and equity for the state share of the LWCF assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of NASORLO and our stateside partners reinforce our strong and enthusiastic support for legislation that would enhance the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NASORLO requests that Congress reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act; and restore language that includes full and permanent funding; and not less than a 40% share of the LWCF allocation for the State Assistance Program.**

**Tim Hogsett, President**  
**November 25, 2014**