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February 5, 2015

Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

Because of the recent discussions about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) taking place during the Keystone Pipeline debate, our organization felt it important that we clearly state our position that we believe changes are needed in the reauthorization of the LWCF.

The National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) represents the outdoor recreation interests of all states. We respectfully request your support for reauthorization of Land and Water Conservation Fund Act with full and dedicated funding that returns a fair and equitable distribution to states, which was an important and key tenant of original LWCF Act.

As Stateside LWCF Program leaders, we have developed partnerships in thousands of cities, towns and counties across the United States resulting in parks and outdoor recreation opportunities near and where people live. Parks and recreation areas created and developed through the visionary LWCF law, are important community assets, plus economic drivers and job creators in our communities. Furthermore, LWCF sites will forever be available for public use.

While LWCF investments combined with local funds have created over 40,000 outdoor recreation sites, our nation and its outdoor recreation needs continue to grow and change resulting in significant unmet outdoor recreation needs across America. It is urgent and timely to renew the commitment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and commit to a fair and equitable share for states and local communities.

Your commitment to supporting our request is critical to carry forward the visionary legacy of the Land and Water Conservation Fund that today serves people across America and the Territories.

Sincerely,

Tim Hogsett, President
National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers

CC: Committee Members