



Land & Water Conservation Fund 2016 Resolution

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 Stateside Program (LWCF) throughout the United States and US Territories. Actions by current and past NASORLO members have resulted in protected parks in every geographic region of the United States, every county, nearly every city or town, and territory.

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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 primary 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, and added that not less than 40 percent of annual appropriations for federal LWCF project purposes be spent for land acquisition;

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

WHEREAS, over 40,000 grants to states and localities were awarded LWCF State Assistance Grants 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 2018, and state by state evaluation by the National Park Service, the federal administrator of the LWCF show significant unmet needs for outdoor recreation in state, local and urban areas;

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO), representing the states and territories, and liaisons to Congress and the Department of Interior, met on September 23, 2016 in Detroit, Michigan for purposes of discussion of the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act;

WHEREAS, NASORLO looks forward to working with all interested stakeholders, including the nation's Governors, Congress and the Administration to create a mutually agreeable platform and 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, NASORLO requests that Congress reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act with full and dedicated funding, including not less than a 40% share of the annual allocation for the exclusive use of outdoor recreation grants for state, local, county and urban governments through the State Assistance Program.

Signed: _____

Susan Moerschel
Susan Moerschel, President