



LWCFCoalition.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2017

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Bipartisan Support for Funding America’s Most Important Conservation Program

More Than 200 Members of Congress Urge Robust Funding in FY 2018 for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Record Number of Signers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 200 Members of Congress sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee voicing strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior and Environment appropriations bill. Signers of this year's letter include 36 Republicans. The strong bipartisan support for LWCF comes just days after the Trump administration's FY 2018 budget proposed to slash funding for federal conservation under the popular program.

Members of Congress who led the charge on LWCF funding shared their comments on the historic level of bipartisan congressional support:

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped countless communities in Pennsylvania and across the country preserve our scenic and cultural heritage,” said Congressman Patrick Meehan (R-PA-7). “This bipartisan effort demonstrates support for the LWCF has broad support among both Republicans and Democrats. I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to ensure the LWCF receives the robust funding it needs to continue protecting our wildlife, scenery and historic places as the budget process continues.”

“The LWCF protects our public lands for hunters, anglers, our kids and grandkids, and everyone else to enjoy,” said Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA-5). “Outdoor recreation supports thousands of jobs across the country, so the LWCF is both a boon for our environment as well as our economy. That’s why it enjoys such broad, bipartisan support. I am proud to join more than 200 Democrats and Republicans in calling to fully fund the LWCF.”

In addition to Reps. Thompson and Meehan, the letter was co-led by Reps. Butterfield (D-NC-1), Reichert (R-WA-8), Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Curbelo (R-FL-26), Huffman (D-CA-2), Katko (R-NY-24) and McGovern (D-MA-2).

Alan Rowsome, Senior Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Wilderness Society and Co-Chair of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, commented following the release of the letter:

“The LWCF Coalition is grateful to all Members of Congress who signed this LWCF letter, demonstrating once again the broad, bipartisan support in Congress for America’s most important conservation program. Members know that investing in LWCF is a win for on-the-ground conservation, close-to-home recreation, working lands and public access to the parks, forests, trails and many other places that shape our American identity. In the face of President Trump’s extreme budget proposal that threatens America’s public lands, this show of support makes abundantly clear that Congress must invest in this program as it crafts their FY 2018 budget this year.”

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About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. 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 a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 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.