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NASORLO 2020 LWCF 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.

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 and guaranteeing that sixty percent (60%) of the Act's funds were to be dedicated to the states and territories; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF was permanently re-authorized under the John D. Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 in which it restored no less than a 40% share, resulting in equity for state and territorial grants; and

WHEREAS, over the past 55 years the LWCF Act created the most successful federal/state/local outdoor recreation partnership in history, which generated hundreds of millions of dollars in matching funds from private, local and state sources to at least double the federal funds for outdoor recreation projects; and

WHEREAS, in excess of 42,000 grants to states and localities were awarded LWCF State Assistance Grants Program funds for acquisition, development and planning of outdoor recreation opportunities in 99% of the nation's counties. These grants represent an investment of \$4.2 billion in federal LWCF assistance, matched with private, local and state sources representing a minimum total of \$8.4 billion for outdoor recreation. Funds provide much needed close-to-home recreation opportunities readily accessible to America's youth, adults, senior citizens and the physically or mentally challenged; and

WHEREAS, a state by state assessment by the National Park Service, the federal administrator of the LWCF, and NASORLO have shown a significant unmet needs for outdoor recreation in state, local and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, a recent NASORLO examination of the need and use of state and local grants found outdoor recreational gaps continue to rise, that 75% of current and future projects are for infrastructure resulting in the support of jobs in local economies, and grant match is available to at least double federal appropriations; and

WHEREAS, a recent assessment of the potential economic impact generated from the State Assistance Program for FY 18 is estimated in-excess of \$250 million and supports 2100 jobs;

WHEREAS, NASORLO is in a close working partnership with the National Park Service to improve the administrative effectiveness and efficiency of the LWCF state grants at the local and state level; and

WHEREAS, NASORLO is in a close working partnership with the National Park Service and Congressional staff to improve the administrative effectiveness and efficiency of the LWCF state grants at the local and state level; and

WHEREAS, to meet the challenges of park infrastructure upgrades, new recreational facility construction, and park acquisitions, NASORLO supports full and dedicated funding at the maximum \$900 million level;

WHEREAS, NASORLO and our state and territorial members seeks authority to allow the use of a percentage of the annual allocations to administer and oversee LWCF administration; and

WHEREAS, NASORLO looks forward to working with all interested stakeholders, including the nation's Governors, Congress and the Administration towards robust funding for LWCF; and

WHEREAS, the NASORLO Board of Directors met on December 6th, 2019 for purposes of discussing the ongoing issues related to the state and territorial administration of the Land and Water Conservation Act; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers Board on behalf of its Membership requests that Congress fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act at the \$900 million level, with a provision that allows the states and territories to use a portion of the annual appropriation for administration of the grant program.

Signed:

Linda Lanterman, President