

**June 1, 2018**

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters in the Conservation Voter Movement, we write to express our strong support for our nation's best parks program: the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As authorization for the highly popular program expires on September 30, 2018, we urge you to permanently reauthorize LWCF with full and dedicated funding.

For decades, LWCF has invested in projects benefitting every part of the country while enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities for millions of people nationwide and boosting America's \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy. Since its creation in 1965, LWCF has provided funding to create state and local parks; conserve farms, ranches and forests; protect National Parks, wildlife refuges, trails, and other public lands; and enhance access to the outdoors for people all across the country – all without using taxpayer funds. LWCF began as a simple idea: use a portion of federal revenues from offshore oil and gas to support the conservation of our lands and waterways. From national icons like the Grand Canyon to urban investments like New York City's Central Park and neighborhood ball fields all across the country, communities across the country have been able to access outdoor spaces thanks to projects supported by LWCF.

Unfortunately, this vital piece of our nation's conservation legacy is at risk. Although legislation to permanently reauthorize LWCF has enjoyed broad bipartisan support in recent years, those bills have not moved forward. Further, opponents of public lands continue to present a false choice -- arguing that we cannot both maintain currently protected lands and waters while investing in protecting new areas, even though both together are vital to maintaining parks and other public lands for the next generation.

LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, but it is chronically underfunded by Congress, which diverts money to programs other than conservation nearly every single year. In its first two annual budget proposals to Congress, the Trump administration even proposed slashing the program by 84% and more than 90%, respectively. While Congress wisely rejected efforts to gut the program, funding remains well below authorized amounts, with FY2018 funding at \$425 million – still less than half of LWCF's full intended funding.

For generations, people across the country have enjoyed, benefitted from, and worked to protect our nation's lands and waters. Congress should not make it harder to protect and enhance these incredible places by drastically underfunding LWCF or allowing the program's authorization to expire. The Conservation Voter Movement urges you to enact legislation to permanently reauthorize LWCF with full and dedicated funding. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

**Gene Karpinski**

President  
League of Conservation Voters

**Tammy Herrington**

Executive Director  
Conservation Alabama

**Polly Carr**

Executive Director  
The Alaska Center

**Laura Dent**

Executive Director  
Chispa Arizona

**Rebecca Saltzman**

Interim Executive Director  
California League of Conservation Voters

**Maria Handley**

Interim Executive Director  
Conservation Colorado

**Lori Brown**

Executive Director  
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

**Aliki Moncrief**

Executive Director  
Florida Conservation Voters

**Colleen Kiernan**

Executive Director  
Georgia Conservation Voters

**Courtney Washburn**

Executive Director  
Conservation Voters for Idaho

**Jennifer Walling**

Executive Director  
Illinois Environmental Council

**Maureen Drouin**

Executive Director  
Maine Conservation Voters

**Karla Raettig**

Executive Director  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters

**Elizabeth Henry**

President  
Environmental League of Massachusetts

**Lisa Wozniak**

Executive Director  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters

**Paul Austin**

Executive Director  
Conservation Minnesota

**Neal Ullman**

Interim Executive Director  
Montana Conservation Voters

**Eliot Bostar**

Executive Director  
Nebraska League of Conservation Voters

**Andy Maggi**

Executive Director  
Nevada Conservation League

**Ed Potosnak**

Executive Director  
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

**Demis Foster**

Executive Director  
Conservation Voters New Mexico

**Marcia Bystryn**

President  
New York League of Conservation Voters

**Carrie Clark**

Executive Director  
North Carolina League of Conservation  
Voters

**Heather Taylor-Miesle**  
Executive Director  
Ohio Environmental Council

**Doug Moore**  
Executive Director  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

**Josh McNeil**  
Executive Director  
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

**John Tynan**  
Executive Director  
Conservation Voters of South Carolina

**Darlene Panvini**  
President  
Tennessee Conservation Voters

**Lauren Hierl**  
Executive Director  
Vermont Conservation Voters

**Mike Town**  
Executive Director  
Virginia League of Conservation Voters

**Joan Crooks**  
CEO  
Washington Conservation Voters  
Washington Environmental Council

**Kerry Schumann**  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters