



LWCFCoalition.org

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LWCF Coalition Statement on Senate Interior Appropriations Draft Bill

Washington, DC – *The following statement can be attributed to Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition:*

“We appreciate the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee for standing up and funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in its draft bill. It is America’s most important conservation and recreation program, and we appreciate the leadership of Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, Subcommittee Chairman Murkowski and Subcommittee Ranking Member Udall to prioritize what Americans want – public lands to get out on and enjoy.

Access to public lands for hiking, hunting, fishing, biking and camping is something everyone agrees on and the Trump Administration has declared it a priority. For more than 50 years, LWCF has done this in every state and county in America without using one penny of taxpayer dollars.

LWCF is a pillar of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy, which supports more than 9 million American jobs. Communities throughout the country rely on LWCF land projects to boost tourism, economic development and outdoor recreation.

The conservation of our nation’s shared outdoor heritage has always been an area of bipartisan agreement, as America’s public lands are a defining aspect of our values and national character. Last year, 84 Senators voted to make LWCF permanent.

The LWCF Coalition will continue to work with Congress to ensure that the final FY 2018 appropriations bill adopts no less than the Senate’s recommendation. Further, we will continue to work with our champions to fully fund LWCF and make it permanent by September 2018.”

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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, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, and the continued historic preservation of 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 comprised of more than 1,000 state and regional conservation and recreation organizations of all sizes, land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, the outdoor recreation industry and conservationists working together to protect America’s public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the permanent 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, working lands and state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that LWCF funds have protected, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.