



**LWCFCoalition.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 10, 2021

**CONTACT:** Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 400-0480

[justin@jmbpublicrelations.com](mailto:justin@jmbpublicrelations.com)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **Bipartisan Group of Lawmakers Ask Administration to Revoke “Harmful” LWCF Changes**

WASHINGTON – Representatives Jared Golden (D-ME) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) along with 88 of their colleagues today called for the Biden Administration to “immediately revoke” the Trump Administration’s [last-minute changes](#) to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These changes include restrictions on federal conservation projects and a revised focus away from investment in outdoor recreation for underserved communities.

“Together, these actions represent an end-run around Congress and a last-minute attempt to put roadblocks in the path of the successful and collaborative locally driven LWCF process,” the bipartisan group of lawmakers said in their [letter](#) to Acting Secretary of the Interior Scott de la Vega. “Many of these unnecessary, unauthorized, and counterproductive changes have been proposed before and rejected by Congress on multiple occasions.”

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund will be critical to meeting President Biden’s conservation goals, but first we must reverse the damaging policies of the previous administration,” said **Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition.** “This fund supports critical conservation tools for communities, investment in natural infrastructure and expanding outdoor recreation access for all. We applaud Reps. Golden, Fitzpatrick and their colleagues for this bipartisan effort. We look forward to working with Congress and the Biden Administration to ensure LWCF continues to function as intended.”

**Specifically, the lawmakers called on the Department of the Interior (DOI) to:**

- Immediately revoke DOI’s Secretarial Order 3388 in its entirety;
- Repeal the last-minute changes to the LWCF Stateside Manual, immediately reinstating the prior version while working with stakeholders in a publicly transparent process to update the Manual consistent with good policy and the express intent of the legislation; and

- Demonstrate the department's commitment to environmental justice and its legislated obligations by:
  - Overturning DOI's unlawful last-minute decision to end the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program; and
  - Issuing a new ORLP Notice of Funding Opportunity adhering to the program's intended purposes.

### **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 55 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities 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 \$778 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 5.2 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 and conservation organizations working to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.