



LWCFCoalition.org

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Senate Rejects Poison Pill Amendments to America's Most Important Conservation Program Reaffirms Commitment to LWCF

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition today applauded the United States Senate for decisively rejecting harmful amendments to a Public Lands package. The amendments proposed to block permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and dilute the program's conservation focus despite over 50 years of unqualified success.

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 applaud the U.S. Senate for rejecting these poison pill amendments designed to handcuff America's most important conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund. By a 2 to 1 margin, Senators rejected, hopefully once and for all, artificially limiting the life of the program, and using funds set aside to protect our most treasured outdoor places for other purposes.

"This support for America's most important conservation program is particularly crucial as LWCF remains in limbo following its expiration last year, missing out on \$2.5 million a day for protecting important landscapes and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. We will keep working to ensure that the Public Lands package (S. 47) is enacted without harmful changes, and with LWCF available for the future of our nation's communities.

"For too long, LWCF funds have been siphoned off for non-conservation government spending. That is why it is also critical for Congress to provide full and dedicated funding for America's most important conservation program. The outdoor recreation industry, governors, mayors, sportsmen, small business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, and millions of Americans will continue to push Congress to finish the job and permanently reauthorize and fully fund LWCF."

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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 \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 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.