



LWCFCoalition.org

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Bipartisan Momentum Builds for LWCF Reauthorization and Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The bipartisan push to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund gained significant momentum this week as several important constituencies urged House and Senate leaders to include LWCF in the FY18 Omnibus spending package. America’s most important conservation program will expire on September 30, 2018 unless Congress acts to save it.

- 28 Republican House Members wrote to Speaker Paul Ryan this week in support of LWCF reauthorization, “As supporters of America’s most important conservation program, we believe it is essential that LWCF’s reauthorization into the future be sent to the President’s desk as part of must-pass legislation.”
- Also this week, more than 300 elected officials in Wisconsin signed a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan calling on him to reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Demonstrating further bipartisan support, a group of 207 lawmakers, including 37 Republicans, wrote the Appropriations Committee in support of reauthorization and robust funding for the program in FY19. This huge show of support directly rejects the Administration’s budget proposal, which effectively eliminates funding for America’s most important conservation program.

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, with a proven 50-year record of success,” said **Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition**. “Every day, LWCF is providing access to public lands for sportsmen; driving the outdoor recreation economy; delivering safe drinking water; strengthening our cultural heritage and saving taxpayers millions of dollars in maintenance, wildfire and operations costs. Failure to reauthorize LWCF or weakening this landmark conservation law would have devastating consequences and unravel decades of progress protecting America’s irreplaceable natural, historic and cultural resources.”

The outdoor recreation industry, governors, mayors, sportsmen, small business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, farmers and tens of millions of Americans are united in the push for permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it works. LWCF helps to keep the \$887 billion recreation economy alive and serves to protect and preserve our National Parks and other public lands.

LWCF is overwhelmingly popular with the American people and has maintained broad bipartisan support over its half-century history of successful, locally driven conservation. Recently, a supermajority of 85 Senators voted to permanently secure LWCF for every future generation. It was the first vote in history by either the House or the Senate to make the landmark conservation law permanent.

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 50 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 a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 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.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the 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 and civil war battlefields, as well as state and local parks.

For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.