



November 19, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Robin Vos
Assembly Speaker
Wisconsin
President, NCSL

Martha R. Wigton
Director
House Budget & Research
Office
Georgia
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Executive Director

RE: Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, commonwealths and territories, we urge you to pass the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act.

The LWCF supports the protection of federal public lands and waters, including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas, as well as voluntary conservation on private land. It also provides grants to states for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites, to protect and conserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species, and grants to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. Overall, the LWCF has protected land in every state and supported over 41,000 state and local park projects. Additionally, the LWCF has helped to enhance the outdoor recreation industry, which supports millions of jobs and generates hundreds of billion of dollars in annual consumer spending, while spurring state investment and economic development, and assists with the promotion of healthy lifestyles and efforts to connect youth to the outdoors.

While the LWCF was recently permanently reauthorized, funding for its activities was not made permanent. NCSL supports full, permanent funding of LWCF to ensure that the benefits provided by the LWCF will continue as intended.

NCSL looks forward to working with you as this legislation moves through Congress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NCSL staff Kristen Hildreth (202-624-3597 or kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org) or Ben Husch (202-624-7779 or ben.husch@ncsl.org).

Sincerely,

Representative Stephen Handy
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Utah House of Representatives

Representative Andrew McLean
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Maine House of Representatives