

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy Program. Earlier this year, Congress reaffirmed its commitment to conservation by permanently reauthorizing LWCF as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. We thank you for funding the LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program at such strong levels in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for fiscal year (FY) 2019. As you begin the process of drafting the FY 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue to increase this crucial investment toward the fully authorized amounts and respectfully request that you allocate at least enacted level funding to this program to honor and continue the commitment to outdoor access for all Americans.

The LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program have contributed to more than 40,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects, and have protected more than 2.5 million acres of land. From protecting wildlife habitat, natural resource lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels, to expanding hunting and fishing access, the LWCF and Forest Legacy conserve important lands for current and future generations. Continued investments in these programs help our nation's outdoor recreation, conservation and preservation economy, which supports millions of American jobs and contributes billions of dollars annually to the entire U.S. economy.

For nearly 40 years, the LWCF receipts have been collected annually to fund federal land acquisition, conserve threatened and endangered species, and provide critical grants to states. The LWCF was designed specifically to not use taxpayer dollars, and the LWCF receipts are not revenues for general purposes, but rather payments to the government specifically intended for conservation spending. The programs funded by the LWCF, including Forest Legacy, the state-side program, endangered species grants, and battlefield protection, provide a diverse array of conservation tools to address national, state, local and regionally driven priorities across the country. These include working lands easements that allow farmers and ranchers to continue acting as stewards of the landscape that sustains their livelihoods. Moreover, Forest Legacy supports working forest projects that help keep critical timberlands forested and accessible, and provides jobs in rural communities.

The LWCF is also a critical tool to acquire inholdings and protect national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, wild and scenic river corridors, national scenic and historic trails, Bureau of Land Management lands and other federal areas.

The companion LWCF state grants program provides crucial support for state and local park acquisitions, recreational facilities, and trail corridors. The LWCF stateside program has funded over 42,000 projects including outdoor recreation facilities, sports fields, and trails in all fifty states. The LWCF state grant is the government's primary investment tool for ensuring that children and families have access to close-to-home recreation and the demand continues to surpass the available funding. Access to local parks and community green spaces is vital for connecting youth and their families across the country with the outdoors.

These LWCF and Forest Legacy expenditures also create important long-term savings for our federal agencies and the public because they secure land that provides valuable water resources, guard against incompatible development, support private working lands, and reduce fire risk. We hope you will remember that both the LWCF and Forest Legacy leverage and complement state, local, and private conservation investments.

We look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the coming months to ensure that these vital programs are adequately funded in FY 2020 to support our longstanding commitment to conservation and to ensure that critical park protection and recreational development opportunities across the nation exist for generations to come.

We are grateful for your leadership in ensuring that funds necessary for our conservation and recreation needs across the country will continue to be available at a consistent level for the LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,




JEANNE SHAHEEN  
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR  
United States Senator



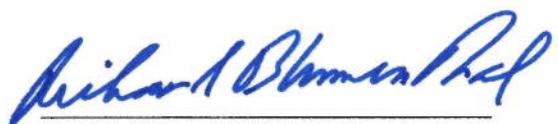
SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator



JON TESTER  
United States Senator

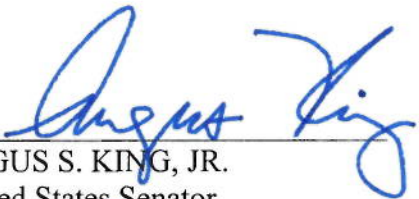


BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator

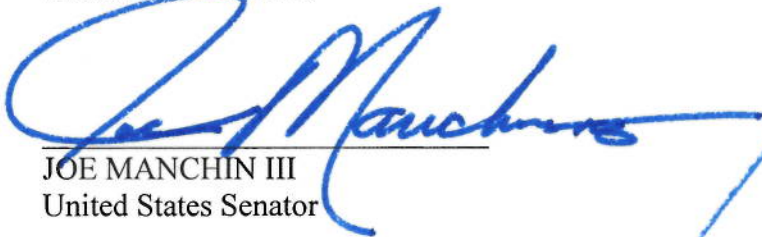




ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator



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United States Senator



JOE MANCHIN III  
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
United States Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



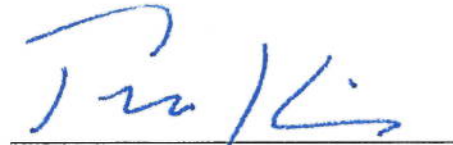
SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



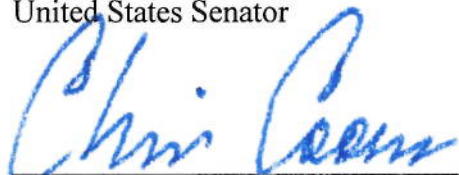
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



TIM KAINÉ  
United States Senator



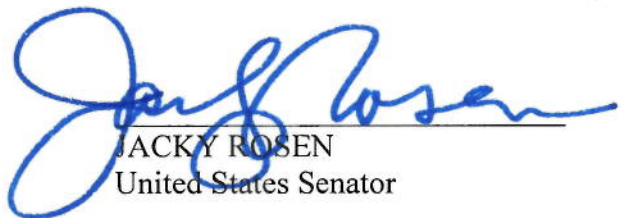
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



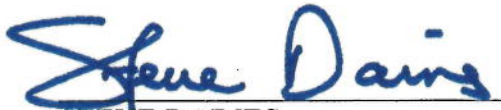
JACKY ROSEN  
United States Senator



JAMES H. RISCH  
United States Senator



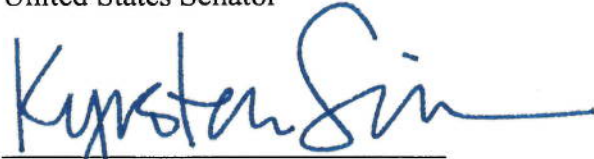
MARTHA MCSALLY  
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS  
United States Senator



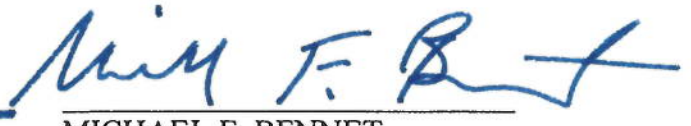
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United States Senator



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United States Senator



ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET  
United States Senator



CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO  
United States Senator



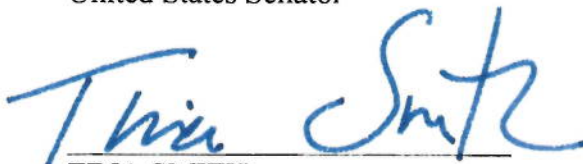
DEBBIE STABENOW  
United States Senator



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United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS  
United States Senator



TINA SMITH  
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator




MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



DOUG JONES  
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



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TAMMY BALDWIN  
United States Senator



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CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senator



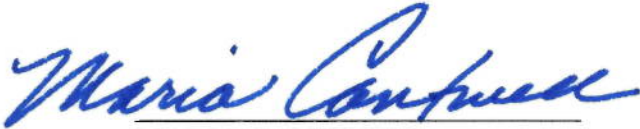
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JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator



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THOMAS R. CARPER  
United States Senator



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MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator



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RON WYDEN  
United States Senator



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MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



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JEFFREY A. MERKLEY  
United States Senator



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MICHAEL D. CRAPO  
United States Senator



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JACK REED  
United States Senator



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BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



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CORY GARDNER  
United States Senator

cc: Chairman Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy



Interior and Environment Group Letter Table  
INTERIOR\_Shahveen\_Group\_190417-075034[LetterID 1466]

ID	Request Project Location	Request Project Name
10320	[Bill-Wide]/[Multi]/[Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)]	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
10321	[Title III]/[Forest Service]/[Forest Legacy]	Forest Legacy

Appropriations Request Database

Request ID: 10320

Project Location: [Bill-Wide]/[Multi]/Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Project Name: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Members:

Subcommittee: INTERIOR

Shahneen, Jeanne(D-NH); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennett, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-ND); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Burr, Richard(R-NC); Cantwell, Maria(D-WA); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Collins, Susan(R-ME); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Crapo, Mike(R-ID); Daines, Steve(R-MT); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Gardner, Cory(R-CO); Gillibrand, Kirsten(D-NY); Harris, Kamala(D-CA); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Heinrich, Martin(D-NM); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Isakson, Johnny(R-GA); Jones, Doug(D-AL); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Manchin, Joe(D-WV); Markey, Edward(D-MA); McSally, Martha(R-AZ); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Merkley, Jeff(D-OR); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Risch, James(R-ID); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Sinema, Kyrsten(D-AZ); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warner, Mark(D-VA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)

Request Type:

Staff Contact: Ariel Marshall  
ariel\_marshall@shahneen.senate.gov  
202-224-6492

Justification:

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Proposed Bill Language: Member's Request: Enacted Level: Intended Country:

Proposed Report Language: Member's Request (text): President's Request:

\$0

Request robust funding for the LWCF program \$0

Appropriations Request Database

<b>Request ID:</b> 10321	[Title III]/[Forest Service]/[Forest Legacy]	<b>Project Name:</b> Forest Legacy
<b>Project Location:</b>	[Title III]/[Forest Service]/[Forest Legacy]	<b>Subcommittee:</b> INTERIOR
<b>Members:</b>	Shahneen, Jeanne(D-NH); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-NJ); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Burr, Richard(R-NJ); Cantwell, Maria(D-WA); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Collins, Susan(R-ME); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Crapo, Mike(R-ID); Daines, Steve(R-MT); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Gardner, Cory(R-CO); Gillibrand, Kirsten(D-NY); Harris, Kamala(D-CA); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Heinrich, Martin(D-NM); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Isakson, Johnny(R-GA); Jones, Doug(D-AL); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Manchin, Joe(D-WV); Markey, Edward(D-MA); McCaskey, Martha(R-AZ); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Merkley, Jeff(D-OR); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RJ); Risch, James(R-ID); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Sinema, Kyrsten(D-AZ); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warren, Mark(D-VA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	<b>Staff Contact:</b> Ariel Marshall ariel_marshall@shahneen.sen 202-224-6492
<b>Request Type:</b>	Group	
<b>Justification:</b>	We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy Program. Earlier this year, Congress reaffirmed its commitment to conservation by permanently reauthorizing LWCF as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. The LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program have contributed to more than 40,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects, and have protected more than 2.5 million acres of land. From protecting wildlife habitat, natural resource lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels, to expanding hunting and fishing access, the LWCF and Forest Legacy conserve important lands for current and future generations. Continued investments in these programs help our nation's outdoor recreation, conservation and preservation economy, which supports millions of American jobs and contributes billions of dollars annually to the entire U.S. economy.	
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<b>Members Request:</b>	\$0	<b>Proposed Report Language:</b>
<b>Enacted Level:</b>	\$0	<b>Members Request (text):</b>
<b>Intended Country:</b>		<b>President's Request:</b>
		Request robust funding for the Forest Legacy program