

July 27, 2015

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Thank you for working to reach a bipartisan agreement to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as part of broader energy legislation. We support this provision, which is part of Title V of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015, and oppose any amendments that would undermine this carefully balanced compromise.

This agreement comes at a critical time as LWCF's current authorization will expire in less than 65 days. Your support of permanent reauthorization for LWCF-- which was also the basis of the bipartisan Burr-Bennet-Ayotte amendment that garnered nearly 60 votes earlier this year as an amendment to the KXL pipeline bill-- greatly increases the chances for timely reauthorization as a part of this or other legislation before September 30.

Title V also creates a new National Park Maintenance and Revitalization Fund that is over and above LWCF--NOT taking authorized dollars away from LWCF--from Outer Continental Shelf energy revenues. This agreement therefore addresses critical needs for our public lands on two fronts: improving existing facilities and resources, and protecting the integrity of those parks and other public lands from incompatible development through LWCF investments. The proposal also supports working lands, wildlife habitat protection, state and local parks, and other conservation and outdoor recreation needs throughout the nation. The provision further guarantees funds for sportsmen's access by incorporating the Making Public Lands Public proposal.

Finally, the agreement includes reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which was created in 1976 to fund the nation's historic preservation programs. The HPF provides formula-based matching funds, administered by the National Park Service, to the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). These funds support the implementation of the nation's preservation programs, including section 106 reviews, Historic Tax Credit applications, nominations for the National Register and surveys of historic resources and grants to preserve the stories and sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement and the African-American experience.

We thank you again for your support of permanent reauthorization of LWCF, creating a new National Parks Maintenance and Revitalization Fund and for permanently reauthorizing the Historic Preservation Fund. Taken all together, this deal represents a tenacious commitment to finding a bipartisan path

forward to support important conservation programs, and we urge you to oppose any amendments that would undermine the agreement.

Sincerely,

Access Fund

Albemarle Conservation & Wildlife Chapter

Amargosa Conservancy

American Hiking Society

American Rivers

American Society of Landscape Architects

Appalachian Mountain Club

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Audubon South Carolina

Back Country Horsemen of America

Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce

Blue Goose Alliance

Blue Ridge Forever

Buckeye Trail Association

Business for Montana Outdoors

Cahaba River Society

Capitol Land Trust

Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves With Nature (CROWN)

Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Civil War Trust

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers

Coastal Conservation League

Columbia Land Trust

Concord Wildlife Alliance

Connecticut Forest & Park Coalition

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Conservation Northwest

Conservation Trust for North Carolina

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Defenders of Wildlife

Endangered Habitats League

Environment New Jersey

Environmental League of Massachusetts

Environmental Learning for Kids

Environmental Protection Information Center

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Fayetteville Increasing Sustainable Habitat (FISH)

Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina

Friends of Acadia

Friends of North Creek Forest

Friends of Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

Friends of the Moshassuck

Gaston County Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards

Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts

Gifford Pinchot Task Force

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Greater Raleigh Outdoors and Wildlife (GROW)

GreenLatinos

Habitat and Wildlife Keepers (HAWK)

Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts

Idaho Conservation League

Idaho Rivers United

Indiana Wildlife Federation

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

Kestrel Land Trust

Kittitas Conservation Trust

Klamath Forest Alliance

La Madre Tierra

Lake James Area Wildlife and Nature Society

Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists

Land Trust Alliance

Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce

League of Conservation Voters

Lummi Island Heritage Trust

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Mass Audubon

Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Mojave Desert Land Trust

Mojave National Preserve Conservancy

Montana Wildlife Federation

Mountain Island Lake Wildlife Stewards

Mountain True

Mountain Wild!

Mountains-to-Sound Greenway

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

National Audubon Society

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

National Parks Conservation Association

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

New Jersey Highlands Coalition

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

New River Gorge Regional Development Authority

North Carolina Camouflage Coalition

North Carolina Coastal Land Trust

North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

North Carolina Wildlife Federation

North Country Trail Association

North Olympic Land Trust

Northeast Wilderness Trust

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Northwest Watershed Institute

Ohio Conservation Federation

Open Space Institute

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Industry Association

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Pamlico Albemarle Wildlife Conservationists

Parks & Trails New York

Partnership for the National Trails System

Partnership for Responsible Business (New Mexico)

PCC Farmland Trust

Peninsula Metropolitan Parks

Piedmont Land Conservancy

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Protecting, Advocating and Conserving Together (PACT) in the High Country

Resources Institute, Inc.

RiverLink

River Through Atlanta

Sail Sand Point

San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce

Seattle Parks Foundation

Sheburne Trails Club of New Hampshire

Skagit Land Trust

Smith River Alliance

Sno-King Watershed Council

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

South Carolina Wildlife Federation

South Dakota Wildlife Federation

South Wake Conservationists

Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Table Rock Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Tecumseh Land Trust

The Conservation Fund

The Corps Network

The Land Trust of North Alabama

The Lands Council

The Mountaineers

The Nature Conservancy

The Trust for Public Land

The Wilderness Land Trust

The Wilderness Society

Transition Habitat Conservancy

Vet Voice Foundation

Voyageurs National Park Association

Washington Association of Land Trusts

Washington Recreation and Parks Association Legislative Committee

Washington State Bass Federation

Washington Water Trails Association

Washington Wild

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

Waukesha County Environmental Action League

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Wild Salmon Center

Wild South

Wilderness Workshop

Wildfish Conservancy