

SUPPORT A SOLUTION FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached bi-partisan letter to Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell urging Senate Leadership to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy Program that protects our lands and working forests. Empowering the true strength of these programs can only be accomplished with a lasting legislative and funding solution for LWCF, which we urge the Senate to consider before the end of this session.

LWCF represents a flexible set of conservation tools that provides options for local communities and land managers to ensure the permanent protection of lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields, and historic sites. It is critical to preserve and protect public lands and ensure they are accessible for our hunters and anglers. LWCF also provides critical matching funds to support state and local park and recreational projects in every state in the nation. In addition, LWCF funds support the Forest Legacy Program, which assists states in conserving important working forestlands and jobs in the woods that are threatened by development and conversion to non-forest uses by leveraging state and private funds.

In every state, LWCF and Forest Legacy funds have ensured that all Americans can reap the benefits of access to outdoor recreation, America's unique historic and cultural sites, water quality, and protected wildlife. Close to home, these places support public health and outdoor education, as well as a tourism and outdoor recreation economy that has remained robust even in times of economic downturn. In addition, our parks, forests, refuges, and other open spaces support the quality of life factors that help communities attract businesses and a strong high quality work force. Overall, LWCF represents a solid investment in America's natural and cultural heritage, our economic strength and our children's future.

This funding will help to ensure that critical public land protection and recreation development opportunities throughout the nation are not lost forever. We must work towards a lasting legislative solution for LWCF, which we urge the Senate to consider before the end of this session. Please join us in signing this letter by contacting Dan Fenn (Senator Mark Udall) at dan_fenn@markudall.senate.gov, or Matthew Dockham (Senator Burr) at matthew_dockham@burr.senate.gov by **November 9th**.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

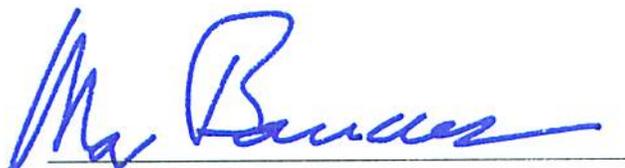
We write as supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and are among the many Senators who have worked to renew Congress's longstanding commitment to LWCF. We remain committed this Congress to finding a solution for LWCF that will permanently fix this promise to the American people. We look forward to working with you to make this possible during this session of Congress.

As you know, LWCF has enjoyed strong bipartisan support in Congress since it was authorized more than 45 years ago, and the program is key to supporting conservation and recreation in every state in the nation. Support for LWCF comes from interests as diverse as sportsmen's groups, large landowning companies, the outdoor industry and other businesses and over 1,000 national, regional, state and local groups located in every state.

Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, biking, snow sports, wildlife viewing and other activities contribute to the economy and the health and well-being of Americans. LWCF investments in public lands leverage state, local and private funds and further foster outdoor recreation. And recall, these investments are paid for not with general revenue but by using a small percentage of drilling royalties paid by oil companies.

Thank you for your consideration and support of LWCF over the past year. We look forward to working with you and our colleagues to find a lasting fix for LWCF before the end of this Congress.

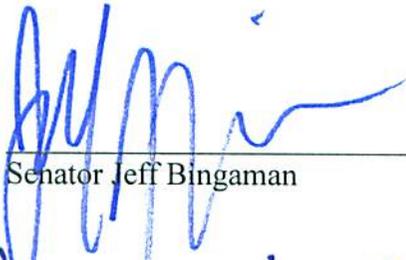
Sincerely,



Senator Max Baucus



Senator Richard Burr



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Lindsey Graham



Senator Mark Udall



Senator Scott Brown