

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you work to enact legislation that will address Federal funding needs for fiscal year 2020 and beyond, we urge you to seize the opportunity for including a bipartisan win for future generations—full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (“LWCF”). This investment would protect and conserve our national parks and public lands, support the nation’s \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy, and finally fulfill the original promise of the LWCF.

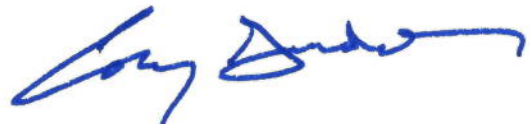
Addressing this priority at this time makes fiscal sense. First enacted in 1964, Congress created the LWCF so that America’s conservation and recreation priorities would be funded through revenues generated from oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf, among other activities—not taxpayer funds. Since then, this program has protected and expanded access for conservation and recreation in all 50 states. Congress took a very important step this year when it permanently reauthorized the LWCF at \$900 million per year. However, the LWCF has reached a funding level of \$900 million only twice in its nearly-55 year-history—this despite federal revenues from offshore energy development well in excess of \$900 million annually. The dedicated LWCF fund within the U.S. Treasury has collected approximately \$40.9 billion during its lifespan, with appropriations of only \$18.9 billion during the same time period. The time has come to match permanent authorization with permanent funding—as envisioned in 1964—to ensure much-needed investment in our public lands and continuity for the state, tribal, and non-federal partners who depend on them.

We strongly urge Congressional leaders to seize the historic opportunity and enact legislation to accomplish this longstanding priority in the 116th Congress. We look forward to working with you as you begin consideration of funding for fiscal year 2020 and beyond.


Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator




Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



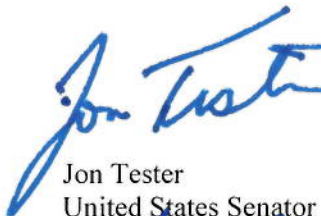
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator