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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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March 7, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you work on the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior and Environment appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to support full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

For over 50 years, LWCF has collected revenue from the development of one resource and reinvested it in the protection and conservation of another. Every year, \$900 million from oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf is put into this fund for the purpose of conserving public lands and waters, and to provide state matching grants for recreation projects.

Unfortunately, Congress has consistently under-appropriated LWCF, diverting more than half of its authorized revenue to other purposes. Despite this, LWCF has protected nearly 5 million acres, including lands near some of our nation's most treasured landscapes such as Grand Canyon National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Imagine what this highly successful program could accomplish if the full \$900 million were appropriated annually.

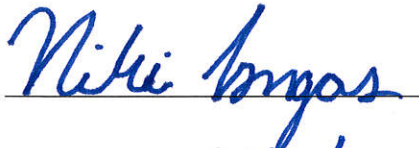
Through Fiscal Year 2015, LWCF has granted over \$4 billion to the states, territories and the District of Columbia to fund over 29,000 local recreation facility projects and protect 3 million acres of recreation lands for projects such as hiking trails, green space, and playgrounds. Overall, state park and recreation projects in nearly every county in the nation have received more than 41,000 grants. American taxpayers get a significant return on this investment as outdoor recreation generates \$646 billion in spending each year, \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue, and supports more than 6 million jobs.

LWCF enjoys broad, bipartisan support, with 88% of voters supporting reauthorization, and 85% of Americans wanting LWCF to be fully funded at \$900 million annually. Last year's appropriation was a step in the right direction; now we have an opportunity to multiply the beneficial impacts of LWCF.

Please consider our request and fund LWCF at the full \$900 million in FY2017.

Sincerely,


  
Raul M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources















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