

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached bipartisan letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, urging support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy programs with much-needed funding to protect our lands and working forests.

The LWCF has helped to ensure the permanent protection and maintenance of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields and historic sites. Equally important, this program has provided the matching funds to support countless state park and recreational projects in thousands of communities in every state across the nation. The Forest Legacy Program leverages state and private funds to assist states in conserving important working forestlands threatened by development and conversion to non-forest uses. Particularly as LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program received such a strong investment in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, continued support for these programs will help our nation's outdoor recreation, conservation and preservation economy and support millions of American jobs.

In every state, LWCF 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. Over the last 25 years, Forest Legacy has permanently protected nearly 2.5 million acres of private forestland in 47 states in cooperation with state and local partners.

In addition, our parks, forests, refuges and other open spaces support quality of life factors that help communities to attract businesses and a strong high quality workforce. LWCF funds park development activities through the critically important Stateside program and increased public recreation through the Federal side as new lands are opened to public recreation.

This funding will help to ensure that vital park protection and recreation development opportunities throughout the nation continue. If you would like to join us in signing this letter or if you have any questions, please contact Ariel Marshall (Senator Shaheen) at 4-6492 or Mykel Wedig (Senator Burr) at 8-2964 by **Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**.



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator