

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Representative Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Mark Pocan
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative James
Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Glenn
Grothman
1217 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Sean Duffy
2330 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Mike
Gallagher
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2018

Re: Congressional Action Needed to Reauthorize and Fully Fund The Land And Water Conservation Fund

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Delegation,

We the undersigned businesses write today to urge you to take action to reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

As business owners in our state of Wisconsin that rely on access to public lands and recreation for economic prosperity, we know the critical importance of LWCF in providing access to open spaces to hunt, fish, hike, swim and recreate. Access made possible by LWCF has strengthened and diversified our economies by simultaneously increasing visitation and bringing businesses of all types to our high quality of life communities.

LWCF is an invaluable component of the recreation economy throughout the nation aiding both rural and urban economies, and to lose such an effective program would be a great loss to the country. We urge you to vote to reauthorize this program and to fund it to its full capacity.

For more than five decades, LWCF has contributed to projects in every state in the nation, and supported more than 41,000 state and local parks. Without the LWCF, sportsmen and recreationists would not have access to countless natural areas, urban parks, water resources, and cultural sites. Here in our state, LWCF has contributed over \$218 million to projects such as the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, St. Croix National Scenic River, and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. These priceless landscapes help fuel [our state's](#) \$17.9 billion in outdoor recreation consumer spending and support 168,000 direct jobs.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is an essential tool to help communities build diverse economies that will attract 21st century businesses who seek high quality of life. Future revenues depend on professionals, business owners, and employees who can position themselves wherever they choose. Communities throughout the nation are investing in recreation assets because they know that companies and entrepreneurs want to locate in areas with access to the outdoors. Public land, and the quality of life it affords, are the currency of the 21st century. The LWCF has provided access to irreplaceable lands and improved outdoor recreation opportunities in nearly every county in the nation. The need and effectiveness of the fund is simply indisputable.

In addition to reauthorization, we urge you to fund LWCF to its full capacity. The program is authorized to receive approximately \$900 million in offshore royalties each year. And yet, the funds continue to be diverted elsewhere year after year. This action does a great disservice to communities of all types who stand ready to leverage federal grant dollars with state and local matching funds.

As business owners, we support the economic power of LWCF and believe the fund is powerful, effective, and poised to bring growth to our communities for many years to come. We urge you to vote for LWCF's reauthorization and fully fund this vital economic driver.

Sincerely,

Rutabaga Paddlesports
Darren Bush
Madison, WI

Machinery Row Bicycles
Justin Sabol
Madison, WI

WI River Outings
Scott Teuber
Boscobel, WI

Truly Spoken
Aytan Luck
Milwaukee, WI

Aquatic Adventures Inc.
Jerry Otte
Brookfield, WI

Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association
Ron Bergin
Cable, WI

Boulders Climbing Gym
Max Beavan
Madison, WI