

Montana Land and Water Conservation Fund Support Letter  
To sign on your organization or business, go to <https://goo.gl/forms/MfbjFfF9nVnt2Zsq2>  
Deadline for signing: June 23, 2017

The Honorable Jon Tester  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Dear Senator Tester:

We are writing to thank you for your co-sponsorship of Senate bill 569 to fully fund and permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Your steadfast leadership in seeking to permanently reauthorize and fully fund this program is a great service to Montanans and the nation. We believe that reauthorization and full funding must go hand in hand.

As you know, the LWCF is the premier outdoor recreation, conservation and outdoor access program in the nation and Montana. The program has provided a diverse array of outdoor recreation, forest health, conservation, economic, community and land management benefits to Montana. LWCF is a critical program to protecting these elements of our state's economy.

We are now facing potentially devastating cuts to LWCF funding, including a complete elimination for federal land acquisition funding. This would have extremely negative impacts for Montana's and the nation's outdoor recreation economy and our local communities. These cuts will significantly hurt access to the outdoors.

We hope you will champion this issue personally with Leadership and key Appropriators. Please communicate to Senate Chairs Cochran and Murkowski, as well as Ranking Members Leahy and Udall, your commitment to the entire program including federal land acquisition. Only with robust funding will we fully realize LWCF's purpose of creating additional public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and motorized recreation; encouraging management of healthy forests; conserving wildlife habitat and open lands; and generating additional outdoor recreational opportunities within our communities.

We represent a broad spectrum of user interests, businesses and organizations that include recreation, forest products, cultural heritage, economic development, conservation, and more – all of which have a stake in the present and future conditions of Montana's public lands. With permanent authorization and full funding for LWCF, Montana's outdoor recreation economy will stay strong and continue to help create sustainable, long-term economic growth for our state.

As Montanans head outside for the summer, we would like to invite you to join us for a field tour celebrating the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Montana. We will be in touch with your policy staff to arrange a time during the congressional summer recess for a field tour with you and your staff highlighting the incredible value Montana derives from the LWCF.

Thank you again for the introduction of LWCF reauthorization legislation, and for your work to ensure full funding for all parts of the program. If we can support you in additional ways, or if we can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

[Undersigned organizations & businesses]

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Deadline for signing: June 23, 2017

The Honorable Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

We write on behalf of a broad range of Montanans to thank you for your co-sponsorship of Senator Richard Burr's legislation (SB 896) introduced on Friday, April 7, 2017. This bipartisan legislation permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is set to expire next year.

We also request your support and leadership in securing full and dedicated funding for the LWCF. Senators Maria Cantwell, Richard Burr, and Jon Tester, among others, have also introduced legislation (SB 569) that will accomplish this. We believe that reauthorization and full funding must go hand in hand.

As you know, the LWCF is the premier outdoor recreation, conservation and outdoor access program for both Montana and the nation. The LWCF program has provided a diverse array of outdoor recreation, forest health, conservation, economic, community and land management benefits to Montana. LWCF is a critical program to protecting these elements of our state's economy.

We now face potentially devastating cuts to the program's funding, including a complete elimination for federal land acquisition funding. This would have extremely negative impacts for Montana's and the nation's outdoor recreation economy, our local communities, and significantly hurt access to the outdoors.

We urge you to take this issue personally to Leadership and to key Appropriators. Please communicate to Senate Chairs Cochran and Murkowski, as well as Ranking Members Leahy and Udall, your commitment to the entire program including federal land acquisition. Only with robust funding will we fully realize LWCF's purpose of creating additional public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and motorized recreation; encouraging management of healthy forests; conserving wildlife habitat and open lands; and generating additional outdoor recreational opportunities within our communities.

We represent a broad spectrum of user interests, businesses and organizations that include recreation, forest products, cultural heritage, economic development, conservation, and more – all of which have a stake in the present and future conditions of Montana's public lands. With permanent authorization and full funding for LWCF, Montana's outdoor recreation economy will stay strong and continue to help create sustainable, long-term economic growth for our state.

As Montanans head outside for the summer, we would like to invite you to join us for a field tour celebrating the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Montana. We will be in touch with your policy staff to find a time during the Congressional summer recess for this field tour with you and your staff highlighting the incredible value Montana derives from the LWCF.

Thank you again for your co-sponsorship of LWCF reauthorization legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure full funding for all parts of the program as well. If we can support you in additional ways, or if we can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,  
[Undersigned organizations & businesses]