

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Schumer, and Leader Pelosi:

September 30, 2018, marked the expiration of one of the most powerful public access and habitat conservation programs in existence – the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation-based organizations and businesses that represent the interests of America’s 40 million hunters and anglers, we are concerned that this expiration could seriously hamper future efforts to conserve valuable habitats and expand public access to America’s public lands. To safeguard our sporting traditions, we ask that you move swiftly to permanently reinstate the program with full, dedicated annual funding.

Our members depend on publicly accessible lands and waters where they can participate in the long-standing traditions of hunting and fishing. For more than fifty years, the Fund has conserved over 5 million acres of public lands, invested over \$16 billion in conservation and outdoor recreation, established new public fishing areas, opened previously inaccessible public lands, and enabled strategic acquisitions of new lands for the benefit of hunters, anglers, and all Americans. The program also has potential to help conserve wildlife migration corridors and other important seasonal habitats. Such outcomes do more than simply carry forward culturally important pastimes – hunting and fishing are big business in America and constitute a vital pillar of the \$887 billion annual outdoor recreation economy.

Equally important, the program is budget-neutral, relying on revenue generated by the success of America’s energy sector, not taxpayer dollars.

Despite the program’s decades-long and proven record of success, its expired authorization puts the future of public access and habitat conservation at risk. We are looking to you to reinstate this program as soon as possible. Doing so is critical to the continued growth of America’s outdoor economy and the sustainability of our nation’s hunting and fishing heritage.

Sincerely,

- American Fly Fishing Trade Association
- American Woodcock Society
- Archery Trade Association
- Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
- Fly Fishers International
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Izaak Walton League of America

- Keep it Public
- Land Trust Alliance
- National Deer Alliance
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Falconers Association
- Northwest Guides and Anglers Association
- Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
- Outdoor Industry Association
- Pheasants Forever
- Pope and Young Club
- Public Lands Foundation
- Quail Forever
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Snook and Gamefish Foundation
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Lands
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited
- 2% for Conservation
- Western Rivers Conservancy
- Whitetails Unlimited
- Wild Sheep Foundation
- Wildlife Management Institute

Alaska

- Alaska Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Arizona

- Anglers United
- Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Arizona Bass Federation Nation
- Arizona Big Game Super Raffle
- Arizona Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Arizona Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
- Arizona Chapter, Safari Club International
- Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited
- Arizona Deer Association
- Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
- Arizona Elk Society
- Arizona Flycasters Club

- Arizona Houndsmen
- Arizona Mule Deer Organization
- Arizona Outdoor Sports
- Arizona Predator Callers
- Arizona Shooting Sports Education Foundation
- Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
- Arizona Taxidermy Association
- Arizona Wildlife Federation
- Christian Hunters of America
- Coconino Sportsmen
- Mohave Sportsman Club
- Outdoor Experience 4 All
- SRT Outdoors
- Southwest Wildlife Foundation
- The BASS Federation
- Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
- White Mountain Lakes Foundation
- Xtreme Predator Callers
- 1.2.3.Go...

California

- Black Brant Group
- California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association
- California Council, Trout Unlimited
- California Deer Association
- California Trout
- California Hawking Club
- California Houndsmen for Conservation
- California Waterfowl
- California Wild Sheep Foundation
- National Open Field Coursing Association
- Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International
- San Diego County Wildlife Federation
- Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International
- Suisun Resource Conservation District
- Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Colorado

- Colorado Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Colorado Council, Trout Unlimited
- Colorado Trapper and Predator Hunters Association
- Colorado Wildlife Control Operators Association
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Coloradoans for Responsible Wildlife Management

- Muley Fanatic Foundation of Colorado
- Pueblo Rod and Gun Club

Florida

- Captains for Clean Water
- Florida Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Florida Wildlife Federation

Georgia

- Georgia Wildlife Federation

Idaho

- Ada County Fish & Game League
- Back Country Horsemen of Idaho
- Idaho Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Idaho Chapter, Safari Club International
- Idaho Council, Trout Unlimited
- Idaho Chukar Foundation
- Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
- Idaho Wildlife Federation
- Treasure Valley Chapter, Idaho Hunters Education Association

Illinois

- Illinois Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Indiana

- Indiana Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Indiana Wildlife Federation

Louisiana

- Louisiana Charterboat Association
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Michigan

- Michigan Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Maryland

- Maryland Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Minnesota

- Minnesota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Minnesota Conservation Federation
- Minnesota Council, Trout Unlimited
- Minnesota Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Mississippi

- Mississippi River Trust
- Wildlife Mississippi

Missouri

- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Missouri Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Montana

- Big Sky Upland Bird Association
- Gallatin Wildlife Association
- Laurel Rod and Gun Club
- Libby Rod and Gun Club
- Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
- Montana Bowhunters Association
- Montana Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Montana Council, Trout Unlimited
- Montana Sportsmen Alliance
- Montana Wild Sheep Foundation
- Montana Wildlife Federation
- Public Land/Water Access Association
- Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association
- Yellowstone Valley Wildlife

Nebraska

- Nebraska Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Nevada

- Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
- Elko Bighorns Unlimited
- Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
- Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Fallon Chapter
- Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Midas Chapter
- Nevada Chapter, Safari Club International

- Nevada Chukar Foundation
- Nevada Muleys
- Nevada Waterfowl Association
- Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance

New Mexico

- Access New Mexico
- Bosque Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen
- Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited
- Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers
- New Mexico Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- New Mexico Quail, Inc.
- New Mexico Sportsmen
- New Mexico Wildlife Federation
- Organ Mountain Bowmen
- Sacramento Mountain Wildlife Conservation Alliance
- Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
- Sportsmen's Concern Las Vegas Chapter
- Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- United Bowmen of New Mexico
- Wild Turkey Sportsmen's Association

New York

- New York Bowhunters, Inc.
- New York Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- New York Council, Trout Unlimited
- New York Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- New York State Conservation Council

North Carolina

- North Carolina Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- North Carolina Wildlife Federation

North Dakota

- North Dakota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Ohio

- Ohio Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Ohio Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Oregon

- Association of Northwest Steelheaders
- Oregon Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

- Oregon Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Oregon Hunters Association
- Oregon Wildlife Foundation
- Traditional Archers of Oregon

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Pennsylvania Council, Trout Unlimited
- Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America

South Carolina

- Conestee Foundation
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation

South Dakota

- South Dakota Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- South Dakota Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures

Texas

- Texas Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Utah

- Utah Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Virginia

- Capitol Region Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Washington

- Washington Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Wisconsin Council, Trout Unlimited
- Wisconsin Division, Izaak Walton League of America
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Wyoming

- Bowhunters of Wyoming
- Charles Piersall Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America
- Dubois Anglers and Wildlife Group
- Muley Fanatic Foundation of Wyoming
- Shoot & Cast
- Western Bear Foundation
- Wyoming Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Wyoming Council, Trout Unlimited
- Wyoming Federation of Union Sportsmen
- Wyoming Hunters and Anglers Alliance
- Wyoming Sportsmen for Federal Land
- Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation