

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Charles Taylor  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
B-308 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Forest Legacy Program. As you begin the process of drafting the FY07 Interior Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$100 million for the LWCF state grants program, \$220 million for the federal LWCF program and \$80 million for the Forest Legacy Program. As our communities address the pressures that new development is putting on their remaining recreation lands, often by voting for increased land conservation spending, we are committed to working with local mayors, county commissioners and state officials to assist their efforts. The Forest Legacy and LWCF programs provide key federal assistance for our communities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy programs have historically been the most significant federal sources of funding to support land conservation. Additionally, these funds support parks and recreation projects that protect America's natural heritage and increase the health and quality of life for all Americans.

For the past 40 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to ensure the permanent protection of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields and historic sites. Equally important, it has provided matching funds to support countless state park and recreation projects in thousands of communities in every state in the nation. The Forest Legacy program was created as part of the 1990 Farm bill and assists states in conserving working forestland that is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Over the past 15 years, it has prevented the loss of over 1 million acres of forest and leveraged an equal amount of state, local and private funding for every federal dollar spent.

In every state in the nation, LWCF and Forest Legacy Program funds have ensured that all Americans have access to lands where they can hunt, fish, play ball, hike, bird watch, paddle a canoe or ride a bike. Working only with landowners who are willing sellers, federal, state and local agencies are working to protect the best of what remains so that future generations can also reap the benefits of access to outdoor recreation, America's unique historic and cultural sites and protected wildlife.

While we appreciate the challenges that the Subcommittee faces in a difficult budget year, we are sure that you will recognize the importance of these programs. We look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the coming months to ensure that these programs are adequately funded.

in FY 07 so that the federal government can maintain its commitment to conservation. This funding will help to ensure that critical park and recreation lands throughout the nation are not lost forever.

As Americans enjoy our nation's forests, parks and wildlife refuges this summer, we urge you to provide the funding levels necessary to conserve precious and threatened places throughout the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bass

Tom Allen

Robert E. And

Earl Blumenau

Willie Delah

Bill Pascrell Jr

Tom Lantos

Tim Holden

Rhonda Hovley  
John B...

Carolyn B. W...  
John ...

Charles B. Rangel

Bert Stupak

Jim Oberstar

Chris Smith

Jim V. Gutierrez  
Sandra Lee

Henry A. Warner

Donald M. Payne

Meaty M. Mehan

Barry Link

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Richard Shear

Alan E. Childer

Sue Kelly

James J. Walsh

Bart Gordon

William R. McHally

Brad Sal

J. Saxton

Jim Moran

Jimmy V. Costello

Lynn Woolsey

Rick Boucher

Gavin Price

Elvira E. Cummings

Phyllis

Joan Williams & Sonall

Nancy D. Johnson

Hilda L. Adie

~~Gregory W. M. ...~~

Grace J. Napoletano

H. M. ...

Julia Carson

Chris Von Holler

Sherry Beckert

Erin L. Emge

Louise M. Slaughter

Dennis & Kerisind

Muchin M. Hards

Lois Capps

Neil Abercrombie

Daria O'Leary

Ron Kind

Phil Lybil

Rail M. Hijaba

Scott Garrett

Arcan Denis

Jim McDermott

Kendrick B. Meek

Rush Holt

David Wu

Brad Sherman

Jim T. Salazar

James Langevin

John Bradley

Daniel Lipinski

Wade Cuccia

John B. Ruan

Bob Datta

Tony Baldwin

Joe L. Gable

Billy McElherrin

Richard Fitzpatrick

Carolyn McCarthy

Ed Cox

Wm. Lacy Clay

Arter Davis

Jim Parnston

Mike Gump

John Bannor

Robert Welch

Jim [unclear]

Carl S. Schiff

Spencer Bachus

John F. Tierney

Loyal Doggett

Mike Ferguson

Walter [unclear]

Phil Starb

John A. [unclear]

Jo Bomer

Al [unclear]

John Lewis

Michael H. [unclear]

John F. Kennedy

Albert R. Brown

Allyson J. Schwartz

Bob Fari

Mary Ann

Mike Rogier

Tom Simmons

Joe Wojcik

Andrew McArthur

Joseph Delano

Don Cup

Jim Huber

Frank Pallone Jr.

Bob O.

Patrick D. Kennedy

Cyne

Joe Wilson

Danny H. Davis

Deirdre

George Miller

Ben Cardie

Paul Davis

Jim Marshall

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Tommy Everett

Gene Hume

Nick Rahall

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