

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

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Lowey:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to ask for your continued assistance in securing much-needed LWCF funding increases during FY2020 spending negotiations with the Senate.

Thanks to your leadership, the House has taken several important steps in recent months to boost the LWCF program. Earlier this year, for example, Congress passed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S.47) to permanently reauthorize LWCF at its full funding level of \$900 million. More recently, the House passed the FY2020 Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 3055), which provides \$524 million for LWCF, a much-needed increase of \$89 million and the highest level of funding in over fifteen years. These actions by the House represent important (and long overdue) steps forward in strengthening the LWCF, and we believe more can and must be done to provide the funding level this critical program needs and deserves.

The LWCF is our nation's premier conservation program, funding over 42,000 projects in all fifty states and every congressional district since its creation in the 1960s. It protects everything from national parks and national landmarks to local trails in urban and rural communities to areas for hunters and fishermen. Investments in LWCF not only support land conservation, they are a sound investment in our economy. The LWCF has created thousands of jobs in the outdoor recreation economy and every \$1 spent by LWCF generates \$4 in economic value to both rural communities and cities.

Despite these successes, the LWCF has received its authorized funding level only twice and a significant amount of the funding – totaling roughly \$20 billion – for LWCF has been diverted away from conservation and recreation funding. This underfunding has led to a backlog of unmet conservation needs across the United States with an estimated \$30 billion backlog for conservation at the federal level and another \$27 billion at the state level. Full funding of the LWCF is needed to provide the resources needed to address the growing backlog of conservation projects and address national, state, regional, and local conservation priorities.

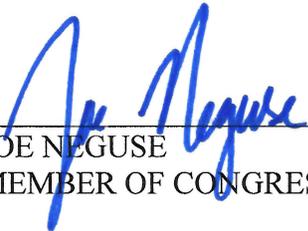
There is strong bipartisan support in the House for increasing LWCF funding. During debate on the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill in June, the House passed an amendment offered by Reps. Cunningham (D-SC), Neguse (D-CO), and Torres Small (D-NM) supporting increased

LWCF funding. This amendment passed by an overwhelming vote of 325-107, with all Democrats present and 91 Republicans voting in support.

However, we are at a critical juncture and cannot ease up. Now that the Senate has passed their FY2020 Interior and Environment bill, the House must push for strong LWCF funding as we move closer to negotiations.

Thanks to your leadership and support for LWCF, we have accomplished much together this year. We look forward to working with you to ensure that we use every opportunity to push for full and dedicated LWCF funding in a final FY2020 spending package and we stand united in our support for your continued efforts on behalf of LWCF.

Sincerely,



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JOE NEGUSE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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CYNTHIA AXNE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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EARL BLUMENAUER  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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SUZANNE BONAMICI  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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ANTHONY G. BROWN  
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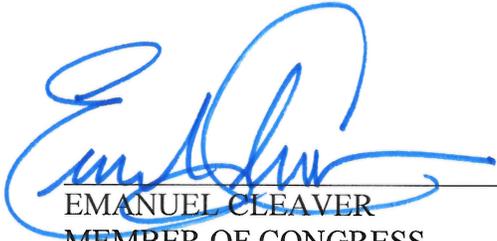
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SEAN CASTEN  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



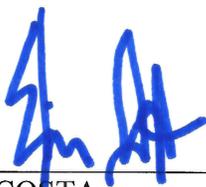
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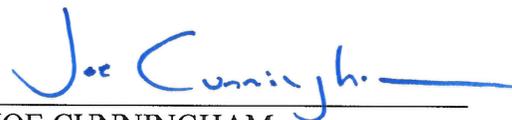
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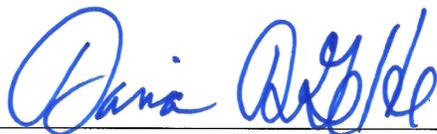
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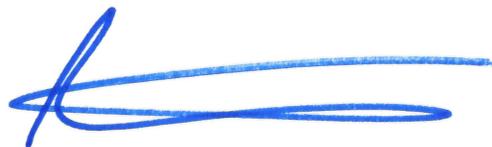
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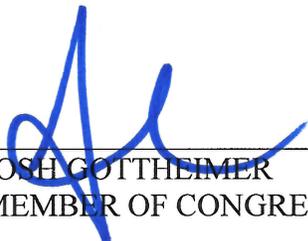
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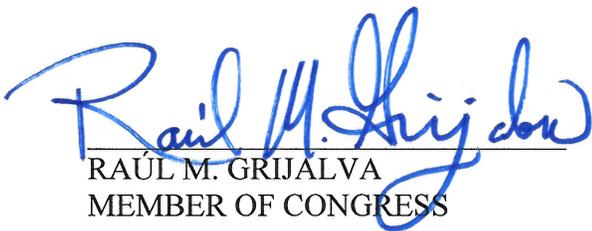
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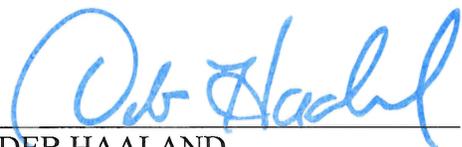
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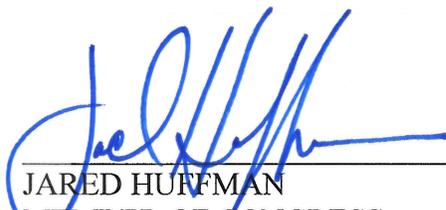
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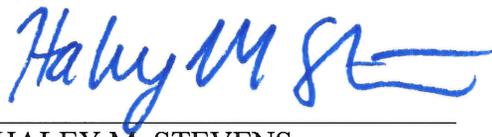
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PAUL TONKO  
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XOCHITL TORRES SMALL  
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