

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2026

Ms. Katherine Scarlett
Chair
Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Vince Haley
Director
Domestic Policy Council
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Chair Scarlett, Director Vought, and Director Haley,

We are writing as strong supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - our nation's most successful conservation and recreation program, which has supported projects that protect our land, water, wildlife, and way of life in every state and nearly every county across the country for over 60 years. In 2020, thanks to President Trump's leadership, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) to permanently fund LWCF, finally fulfilling a 60-year promise by ensuring that the \$900 million deposited into LWCF annually will be used for its intended conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. This landmark legislation, which we and most other Republican members supported, was far and away the signature conservation achievement of President Trump's first term, assuring his place in history in the effort to "Make America Beautiful Again."

That historic achievement relies heavily on effective implementation of LWCF during the President's current term. LWCF is a foundational conservation and recreation commitment that works extremely well as authorized to support America's public lands and local economies. We appreciate the Administration's partnership with Congress to produce LWCF project lists for Fiscal Year 2025 as part of the recently enacted Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill; the schedule for submission of FY26 and FY27 lists included in that bill will help ensure that LWCF delivers for America's sportsmen, families, and the \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation, further cementing the President's conservation legacy.

In that context, we also urge that the Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget proposal include no proposed LWCF changes regarding eligible uses or other operational details of this vital, highly successful program, and the full amount of annual LWCF funding guaranteed by GAOA continues to be allocated to the suite of 10 authorized LWCF federal, state, and local conservation subprograms. Specifically, we ask that you ensure that LWCF funds are fully deployed to address conservation and outdoor recreation access needs, including for sportsmen's access, and are not diverted to non-LWCF purposes (including but not limited to deferred maintenance) in Fiscal Year 2027 and beyond.

LWCF has proven to be a massive win for the President, for our districts and communities, and for the American people. We look forward to working with you to secure and celebrate the many LWCF successes that the FY27 budget submission can catalyze, and we appreciate your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Ryan Mackenzie
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



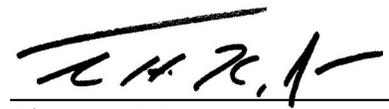
Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



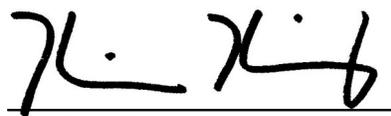
Elise M. Stefanik
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