



Board of County Commissioners

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December 3, 2018

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

Eagle County Board of Commissioners wishes to express our support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and Colorado's health, well-being, economic opportunity and access to our nation's natural treasures. We urge Congress to act swiftly during this legislative session to enact full funding for and permanent reauthorization of the LWCF.

LWCF has impacted our county in numerous ways. Most recently, over one million dollars of LWCF funds were used to reconstruct the Sylvan Lake State Park spillway channel. This recreation area serves as a popular destination for the citizens of Eagle County and Colorado while providing water storage for our surrounding communities and irrigation districts. Additionally, two of our Eagle County Open Space boat ramps along the Upper Colorado River were purchased by the Bureau of Land Management through the Land Water Conservation Fund.

Now is the time to act, and we are supportive of permanent and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner

cc: U.S. House Representative Jared Polis
U.S. House Representative Scott R. Tipton
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet

Commissioner Ryan moved adoption
of the following Resolution:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF EAGLE, STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 092

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF AND FULL FUNDING
FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

WHEREAS, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), established by Congress in 1964, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country's precious natural and cultural resources and improving equitable access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities, which is essential to Colorado's health, culture, economic opportunity and the future of our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, LWCF has been instrumental in creating opportunities for Coloradans in urban, suburban, and rural areas to get outdoors. It has been a critical tool in conserving national parks and historic sites; national wildlife refuges and monuments; watersheds; working forests; wildlife areas; and state and local parks, trails and ball fields; and

WHEREAS, LWCF is based on the simple premise that as we extract natural resources that belong to our nation - offshore oil and gas - we should in turn protect and invest in onshore resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's important public lands for future generations - be that an iconic national park or an urban playground; and

WHEREAS, though LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been met only twice during the program's nearly five decades of existence and, instead of being fully funded, nearly every year Congress diverts much of this funding to purposes other than conserving our most important lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 53 years, LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state and nearly every county, has improved access to these public lands, and has provided matching grants for the creation of more than 41,000 state and local park projects; and

WHEREAS, LWCF supports and maintains the economic asset that our federal, state and local public lands represent. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation activities contribute a total of \$28 billion annually to the Colorado's economy and support 229,000 jobs in our state (source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). Whether manufacturing, retail or service related, most of these jobs are sustainable resource or tourism-based jobs and cannot be exported; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has received more than 980 state side LWCF grants to local governments and state parks totaling over \$268 million and touching nearly all of the state's counties; and

WHEREAS, over the last 53 years, LWCF funding has contributed to the enhancement of local parks and recreational opportunities that are part of the fabric of Colorado, including numerous parks and green spaces, as well as the protection of iconic landscapes in the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Uncompahgre, Arapahoe-Roosevelt, Gunnison and Rio Grande National Forests, and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument.

WHEREAS, the parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding are green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of Colorado families; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was initially authorized in 1965 by the President and Congress and expired on September 30, 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF EAGLE, STATE OF COLORADO:

THAT, that Eagle County expresses support for and urges Congress to act swiftly to enact full funding for and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and Colorado's health, well-being, economic opportunity and access to our nation's natural treasures; and:

THAT, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the entire Colorado Congressional Delegation to show support for the fully funding and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

THAT, the board hereby finds, determines and declares that this Resolution is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado.

MOVED, READ AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado, at its regular meeting held the 27th day of NOV, 2018.



ATTEST:

REBECCA O'BRINE
Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners

W. Dupuis

COUNTY OF EAGLE, STATE OF
COLORADO, By and Through Its
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By:

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Kathy Chandler-Henry
Chair

Jillian H. Ryan
Jillian H. Ryan
Commissioner

J. McQueeney
Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Commissioner MCQUEENEY seconded adoption of the foregoing resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Chandler-Henry
Commissioner Ryan
Commissioner McQueeney

Ay.
Ay.
Ay.

This resolution passed by 3/0 vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado