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## **Congress Overwhelmingly Supports Public Lands Bill Contact Your Member Today to Say “Thanks!”**

Dear BCHA Member,

You helped do it! This week, the House of Representatives voted to permanently reauthorize LWCF by a vote of 363 to 62. In a rare turn of events, Congress displayed overwhelming bipartisan support for America’s most important conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). See how your representative voted [here](#). Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate passed LWCF on a vote of 92-8. LWCF is one of nearly 100 public lands-related provisions in Senate Bill 47, the Natural Resources Management Act. See how your senators voted [here](#).

**Please take time to call your representative and senators to thank them for supporting the Public Lands bill (S. 47) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Contact information for your representative can be found by going [here](#).  
Contact information for your senators can be found [here](#).

### **BCHA Worked Several Years to Support the LWCF Coalition**

Thanks to your calls and emails, S. 47 will now be sent to the President’s desk for signature. This is the culmination of a years-long effort by Congressional champions on both sides of the aisle, and by stakeholders across the country, to preserve this critical conservation program.

### **Additional Information on LWCF**

First signed into law on September 3, 1964, LWCF established a dedicated means for the conservation and protection of America’s irreplaceable natural, historic, cultural and outdoor landmarks. LWCF is the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as creating and developing state and local parks, and building or expanding over 1,000 trail projects across the country.

LWCF is rightly characterized as America's most important conservation program. It does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments.

LWCF has funded 42,000 projects across the country, bringing tremendous economic benefits and returns on investment since it was established. According to the Department of the Interior, each LWCF dollar invested in a community generates [four times that amount](#) in economic activity.

LWCF has expired twice in recent years. This week's bill reauthorizing the law prevents any future expirations. It also includes a bipartisan "sportsmen's package" designed to enhance access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities (read: horse access!) on public lands and waters by setting aside 3% of all LWCF monies to provide access for isolated and inaccessible public lands

For more information on LWCF, including the places in each state protected by LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.com](http://www.lwcfcoalition.com).

**Thank you for taking action and contacting your members of Congress today!**

Sincerely,  
Freddy Dunn, Chairman