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Congress of the United States
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August 29, 2018

Director R. J. Cardin
Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department
41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd.
Attn: Unit Operations Building
Morristown, AZ 85342

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2018

MARICOPA COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

RE: LWCF

Dear Director Cardin:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF Act of 1965 was enacted to help preserve, develop, and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities to strengthen the health of U.S. citizens. The law created the fund in the U.S. Treasury as a funding source to implement its outdoor recreation goals. While the fund accrues revenues and collections from multiple sources, nearly all the revenues are derived from oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

The fund was originally intended to be split equally between the states and the federal government. In the first year, 60% of available funding went to states for locally supported recreational projects. I am concerned that today the funds go disproportionately towards federal land acquisitions and has turned into a way for Washington, D.C. bureaucrats to seize more lands instead of providing a means for states to develop recreational facilities or carry out conservation efforts. I'd certainly like to see more of the fund's resources go back to the states. The assumption that the federal government is a better steward of the land than states and local communities is patently false.

There are aspects of the fund I do favor including the stateside program. As you mentioned, this program has provided construction jobs, funded parks and increased tourism opportunities. The fund has continually enabled access for recreational opportunities like hunting and fishing which help to fuel the \$887-billion outdoor recreation economy. I hope to see these efforts continue with the appropriation of funds, but I would also like to see the percentage of funds allocated to more land acquisition diminished. There is way too much federal land already, and in my view, more federal land needs to be returned to the States and counties.

You ask that I support renewal in September 2018. I do plan on supporting this bill with the changes I have outlined, whether by my amendment or others. This program has accomplished good things, and with the changes I have outlined, it can and should continue.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress