

June 13, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations
United States Senate, HSOB 522
Constitution Avenue and Second Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

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Pennsylvania

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California

Gerald Parish
Tennessee

Sue Black
Arizona

Doug Beck
Maine

The Honorable Mark Udall, Ranking Member
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations
United States Senate, HSOB 531
Constitution Avenue and Second Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Programs administered by the National Park Service. NASORLO represents the state and territorial officials, appointed by our Governors, who serve as the liaisons to the federal government in the administration and advocacy for the LWCF State Assistance Program. We thank you for funding state and local outdoor recreation grants in FY 2018 at the highest level in recent years. These state, local and urban grants improve and expand outdoor recreation opportunities at close to home locations in every state.

Specifically, we request the Committee continue to fund State Assistance at a minimum of \$124 million in the FY 19 Budget, which would include funding for ORLP at \$20 million. We also appreciate your on-going efforts to continue increasing the overall share of state and local outdoor recreation assistance with an eye toward full equity with the federal allocations, or at least 40% of the total LWCF. Although this budget may not allow funding increases for state and local assistance, we are encouraged by your ongoing support.

As you know there is a tremendous need for outdoor recreation opportunities and access within the local areas and communities where Americans work and play. The State and Local Assistance program is the federal government's only investment tool dedicated to the development of close to home public recreation. With data showing that four out of five Americans now live in our larger communities, and the fact the original LWCF Act required 60% of the funds be for State Assistance, we appreciate your support for increasing appropriations for State Assistance and the ORLP program until equity is restored.

NASORLO is a 501 c (6) organization of appointed state and territorial officials working to provide outdoor recreation by investing proceeds from the LWCF state assistance program in state and local projects. www.nasorlo.org

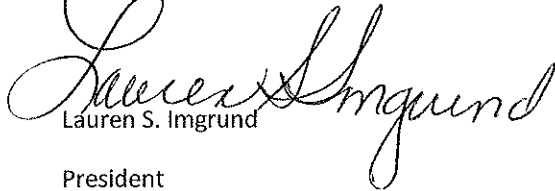
105H, ABNR BUILDING
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It also should be mentioned that these programs support the economy in significant ways, because they require at least an equal match. A 2017 survey indicated 75 % of these projects fund infrastructure, which is important, and also a significant boost to job creation and the local economy.

These benefits are distributed equitably throughout the nation as these grants are apportioned by a formula determined by population and urban density. A total of \$110 million is in the process of being allocated from the FY 2018 appropriation through these formula grants, including a 12 % increase over last year which results in an estimated \$960,000.00 for Alaska, and in excess of \$1.9 million for New Mexico. With the local contribution matching the federal dollars these are significant impacts in our states and territories.

In conclusion, we ask you in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee to continue your strong support for outdoor recreation in local communities, urban areas and state parks throughout the nation by funding the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program and the ORLP at the \$124 million level. We thank you for considering our request and look forward to working with you on these and any other issues of importance to outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren S. Imgrund". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Lauren S. Imgrund

President