



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 20, 2018

The Honorable Scott Perry
United States House of Representatives
1207 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Perry:

Over 50 years ago, Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, a remarkable bipartisan measure that provides urban and rural outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Unfortunately, without congressional action this tremendous resource to states will expire at the end of this month. I write to request that you support H.R. 502, which was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources last week, and to urge your leadership to make this a priority in the coming days. This bill provides for the permanent reauthorization of the LWCF, to ensure that the Fund will continue to enable new recreational opportunities for future generations in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

LWCF grants have improved thousands of communities throughout the Commonwealth and have helped fund significant improvements in our award-winning State Parks. Projects range in size from large, high-profile undertakings – like the rehabilitation of the Big Savage Tunnel, a key point along the Great Allegheny Passage trail – to more local initiatives, such as the rehabilitation of Milltown Dam Park in Chester County. Federal projects have added to the Appalachian Trail, rehabilitated historic Valley Forge National Park and enabled dozens of other projects across the state.

Last week I attended a moving event at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville PA, marking the 17th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our nation, and memorializing the 40 passengers and crew who lost their lives on Pennsylvania soil that day. LWCF funds were instrumental in enabling the creation of that fitting memorial as a place of reflection and tribute to all who lost their lives on that tragic day.

Tremendous strides have been made in meeting local outdoor recreation needs thanks to the LWCF in Pennsylvania. The 40 percent guaranteed funding to the states in the bill will address greatly needed infrastructure upgrades, meet new health and safety requirements, and respond to changing population trends. Parks created through this visionary law provide areas that will forever be available to address the needs of our youth, adults, seniors, and those of all abilities.

I am requesting your support for permanent reauthorization of the Act. Your commitment is critical to carry forward the visionary legacy of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor