

Dear Senators & Representatives:

As Colorado-based businesses and organizations, we urge you to support our state's great outdoors through full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We ask that you lend your full support to passing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act, so that our nation's most successful conservation program can continue its long track record of success.

LWCF is built on a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. Through its over 50-year history, LWCF has invested more than \$278 million in Colorado's public lands and outdoor recreation. Funds have gone toward public lands including Colorado crown jewels like the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Rocky Mountain National Parks, toward healthy working forests through the public-private partnerships of the Forest Legacy Program, and toward local parks and trail projects in communities across the state.

These investments not only benefit the public lands and outdoor opportunities that are a valued part of our Colorado way of life, but also promote tourism and the outdoor recreation industry which are among our state's most important economic drivers. The Outdoor Industry Association reports that active outdoor recreation in Colorado generates \$28 billion in consumer spending, supporting 229,000 Colorado jobs. Our great outdoors isn't just good fun – it's good business.

Congress last year passed permanent reauthorization of the LWCF; now it is time to ensure that it is fully funded now and into the future. Please support passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act, to benefit Colorado's vital outdoor recreation economy and the quality of life we enjoy as Coloradans.

Sincerely,

David Nickum, Executive Director
Colorado Trout Unlimited

David Dragoo, President
Mayfly Outdoors

Suzanne O'Neill, Executive Director
Colorado Wildlife Federation

Julie Mach, Conservation Director
Colorado Mountain Club

Don Holmstrom, Co-chair
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Matt Rice, Director, Colorado River Basin Program
American Rivers

April Archer, CEO
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Corinne & Garrison Doctor, Co-owners
Rep Your Water

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Fishpond

Henry Wood, VP of Sales & Marketing
Upslope Brewing

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Five Rivers Chapter, Durango

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San Luis Valley Chapter, Alamosa

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Tumbling Trout Fly Shop, Lake George

Pete Ashman, President
Grand Valley Anglers, Grand Junction

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Basin + Bend, Evergreen

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Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs

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Jeremy Dakan, Owner
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Shaun Hargerave, Partner
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Peter Stitcher, Owner
Ascent Fly Fishing, Littleton

Greg Felt
Chaffee County Commissioner