

June 8, 2020

Good morning,

On behalf of VoteVets and our 900,000 veteran and military family activists, I'm writing to ask for your member's support of the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).

The connection between military veterans and our nation's public lands is well-documented and in recent years has become much more publicized -- especially in the value of spending time outdoors to heal from traumatic experiences associated with one's military service.

This is a leading reason why veterans have been organizing for years to see the Land and Water Conservation Fund fully and permanently funded. This bipartisan program serves as the chief steward of our nation's public lands and has invested \$18.4 billion to preserve battlefields and other historic sites, protect iconic places from Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian Trail, and has supported 42,000 state and local projects -- at least one in every county, in every state in the country.

In addition to the healing qualities our public lands provide people, veterans and non-veterans alike, fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund will also be a critical tool in helping our economy recover -- helping to stimulate tourism and generating a U.S. outdoor recreation economy to the tune of \$887 billion in consumer spending and helping to create 7.6 million jobs. All without costing the American taxpayer a dime.

It's for these reasons that we ask for your support for the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).

If you have any questions, especially any regarding the connection between veterans and military families and our public lands, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Will

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Will Goodwin

Director of Government Relations

VoteVets.org