



June 10, 2020

Dear Jennifer,

Practical, safe, and responsible offshore energy development doesn't just create jobs and power our lives – it also funds America's largest federal conservation program. For decades, the natural gas and oil industry has directly contributed to outdoor recreation and environmental conservation, thanks to a long-standing law that would be strengthened by legislation that is up for a vote in the U.S. Senate.

Senators will soon vote on S. 3422, the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), a bipartisan bill that would codify a permanent funding stream for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and address a considerable maintenance and construction backlog on public lands.

Since 1965, [LWCF grants](#) have provided more than \$4.4 billion for over 40,000 projects, supporting resource management, habitat restoration, and outdoor recreation such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. **[Offshore natural gas and oil royalties provide the primary source of funding for all LWCF projects](#)**, from the Grand Canyon National Park to community basketball courts.

As summer starts and the coronavirus limits the nation's ability to convene inside, outdoor activities are more important than ever. Last month, API was happy to see the Interior Department [announce](#) a \$227 million LWCF distribution to all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia for specified park and outdoor recreation and conservation.

But we won't stop there. Energy producers are proud to grow the economy, create good-paying jobs, and invest in projects that enhance America's natural beauty. Offshore energy revenues are essential to conserving the LWCF itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

Mike Sommers  
President & CEO  
API