

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader, House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader, House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Leader Hoyer, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Grijalva, and Ranking Member Bishop:

We write to urge immediate House action on S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, recently favorably reported by the U.S. Senate by a strong bipartisan 92 to 8 vote. As you know, this legislation is a product of many years of hard work from Democratic and Republican Members alike in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The bill represents a bicameral and bipartisan agreement to achieve locally driven and nationally important public land management priorities. If enacted, it will be a historic win for conservation, management and protection of our public lands.


Notably, S. 47 includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and represents a bipartisan and bicameral agreement to provide long-term certainty and strengthen the program. LWCF is our country's most popular and most effective program for protecting our iconic public lands and wildlife habitat. Importantly, LWCF helps facilitate more access to our public lands for the American people, helps timber producers and multi-generation farmers and ranchers continue to work their land, and conserves natural landscapes for the future. Passage of S. 47 would provide certainty that this program will continue for generations to come.

S. 47 also includes over 100 locally driven land conveyances, exchanges, and designations that help resolve land use challenges in our communities, such as the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act in Montana and Cerros del Norte Conservation Act in New Mexico. Provisions like these in particular are critical to facilitating economic development and better land management in many western states. The bill also includes long-fought provisions of the bipartisan Sportsmen's Act that will further protect our nation's outdoor heritage, strengthens partnerships with our National Parks and includes provisions of the bipartisan WILD Act that supports wildlife conservation around the world and here at home.

These priorities have lingered for far too long. We encourage you to expeditiously schedule S. 47 as passed by the Senate for consideration in the House and help send this historic bill to the President for his signature without further change or delay.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
United States Senator


MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator