

Stakeholder Support on Daines' Bill to Permanently Reauthorize LWCF

Kyle Weaver, President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: *"Today was a remarkable day in the Senate. The Energy & Natural Resources Committee approved Sen. Daines' bill establishing a limited pilot arbitration program for collaborative forest projects in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming that would help protect the efforts of stakeholders against frivolous litigation. The Committee also passed important legislation from Senator Cantwell (D-WA) permanently reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund as republican Senators Daines, Gardner, Alexander, Portman and Capito reached across the aisle to pass the bill while also defeating several amendments that would have negatively impacted the program. Montanans are particularly fortunate to have their entire delegation support LWCF with Daines leading the charge in the Senate today to protect public access to public lands, Congressman Gianforte guiding similar legislation through the House Natural Resources Committee last week, and Senator Tester remaining steadfast in his support for permanent reauthorization and full funding."*

Mark Aagenes, Director of External Affairs, Montana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy: *"There is no doubt we were disappointed to see such an important program expire. However, today's mark up and Senator Daines' key role in helping create some serious bipartisan momentum is huge. From protecting our rangelands, to better access for recreation, to growing our local economies Senator Daines understands how important this is to Montanans. His proactive support for full, permanent and dedicated funding for this program is exactly what we need and we at TNC in Montana very much appreciate his continued efforts to quickly get this across the finish line."*

Glenn Marx, Executive Director, Montana Association of Land Trusts: *"Shoutout to Senator Daines for helping lead committee passage of permanent reauthorization and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund today. That's a major positive step. But right now, the LWCF has expired and Montana and America need Congress to prioritize the immediate reauthorization of the LWCF, America's premier conservation and outdoor recreation program."*

Dick Dolan, Northern Rockies Field Office Director, The Trust for Public Land: *"Passage of this landmark legislation by the Senate Energy Committee is truly a watershed event for LWCF and the Montana communities and iconic places that depend on it. The Trust for Public Land has seen close up just how important it is for this essential conservation program to receive the permanent authorization and dedicated full funding we all need. We recognize the critical role Senator Daines played in securing this historic milestone in the committee process, and we appreciate his leadership — at this moment when Congress has allowed LWCF to lapse — in helping to secure the future of LWCF for Montana and the whole country."*

Andrew Miller, CEO, Stimson Lumber Company: *"In Montana and elsewhere, LWCF does what no other program can do for our rural economy and our way of life— maintaining working forests and jobs in the woods, providing for essential public recreation access, and*

protecting irreplaceable habitat and open spaces. Senator Daines has been a leading advocate for permanent reauthorization and dedicated, guaranteed full funding for LWCF, and we are deeply grateful for his effective efforts in the Energy Committee to advance this landmark legislation.”

Gates Watson, Montana and Northwest Director, The Conservation Fund: *“The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides both economic and environmental benefits to Montana and every state across the country, enabling practical solutions for ranchers and recreationists. We appreciate and applaud the leadership of Sen. Daines and the entire Montana Congressional Delegation for supporting ongoing efforts to permanently reauthorize LWCF and ensuring that this essential conservation tool is fully funded and available for land protection and recreational access efforts around the State of Montana.”*