

Daniel R. Barrone, Mayor

Councilmembers:

Nathaniel Evans

Darien D. Fernandez

George "Fritz" Hahn

Pascualito Maestas

Richard Bellis, Town Manager



**Taos Municipal Building
400 Camino de la Placita
Taos, New Mexico 87571**

**(575) 751-2000
Fax (575) 751-2026**

**Visit us on our Website at:
www.taosgov.com**

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Carlos Cisneros
Senator of New Mexico
Box 1129
Questa, NM 87556

Dear Mr. Cisneros,

First of all, we would like to enthusiastically thank you for your support of permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As local elected officials from mountain communities in the West we represent 5,971 year-round residents and countless annual visitors, all of whom recognize the importance of adequate funding for public lands conservation, preservation, enhancement, and expansion. Although we are pleased with the passage of permanent reauthorization, this is just a first step. We now urge you to support and advance full and dedicated funding for the LWCF.

The LWCF has provided funding over the last 52 years for countless federal, state, and local public lands projects in every county in the United States. These resources have helped to create an extensive network of public lands and waters for conservation, ecosystem preservation, and for all Americans to enjoy. Outdoor recreation and proximity to open spaces - many of which have been enhanced through the use of the LWCF - draw residents and tourists to mountain communities which provides significant economic support as well as a distinct and desirable way of life. A recent study found that counties in close proximity to public lands perform substantially better in key economic factors such as employment and personal income than counties without nearby public lands.

Since the LWCF expired in late September 2018, the fund has lost more than \$350 million that should have been used for the conservation, enhancement, and protection of public lands and waterways. Many projects funded by the LWCF have an uncertain future due to the current lack of funding and historically unpredictable nature of funding for the program. Thus, we urge you to pass full and dedicated funding to ensure our public lands receive the protection they deserve now, and into the future.

The LWCF is a vital component of job creation and economic development through support for public land infrastructure. Reports show that the LWCF provides a strong return on investment. One study found that for every \$1 of LWCF funds invested there is a remarkable return of \$4 in economic value.

Our communities are inextricably linked to the public lands that surround them. Our residents and business owners rely on public lands visitation and exploration for economic success and cultural vitality. The LWCF supports and enhances public lands, and as such, our communities. You have the opportunity to provide full funding to support this incredible program. So please, vote to fully fund the LWCF in support of our mountain communities, and public lands for all Americans.

Sincerely,

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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
Representative of New Mexico
2323 Rayburn 1. HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Lujan,

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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall
Senator of New Mexico
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Udall,

First of all, we would like to enthusiastically thank you for your support of permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As local elected officials from mountain communities in the West we represent 5,971 year-round residents and countless annual visitors, all of whom recognize the importance of adequate funding for public lands conservation, preservation, enhancement, and expansion. Although we are pleased with the passage of permanent reauthorization, this is just a first step. We now urge you to support and advance full and dedicated funding for the LWCF.

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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales
Representative of New Mexico
26 Lavender Lane
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Dear Mr. Gonzales,

First of all, we would like to enthusiastically thank you for your support of permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As local elected officials from mountain communities in the West we represent 5,971 year-round residents and countless annual visitors, all of whom recognize the importance of adequate funding for public lands conservation, preservation, enhancement, and expansion. Although we are pleased with the passage of permanent reauthorization, this is just a first step. We now urge you to support and advance full and dedicated funding for the LWCF.

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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Grisham,

First of all, we would like to enthusiastically thank you for your support of permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As local elected officials from mountain communities in the West we represent 5,971 year-round residents and countless annual visitors, all of whom recognize the importance of adequate funding for public lands conservation, preservation, enhancement, and expansion. Although we are pleased with the passage of permanent reauthorization, this is just a first step. We now urge you to support and advance full and dedicated funding for the LWCF.

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