Congressional Inaction Allows 50 Year Old Conservation Program to Expire

Tomorrow, Tuesday October 2, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (SENR) Committee is scheduled to mark up a bipartisan bill that would permanently reauthorize America’s most successful conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Despite widespread support for LWCF from hunters, anglers, conservationists, rural and mountain communities, and many more, Congressional inaction allowed the over 50 year old fund to expire on Sunday.

The LWCF supports public lands, city parks, and ballparks at no cost to taxpayers by using funding from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Following its Sunday expiration, countless projects are now in a holding pattern until Congress can agree to fully fund and permanently reauthorize the LWCF.

Mark up in the SENR Committee will review a bipartisan bill for full dedicated funding. Weakening amendments for simple and limited authorization have been introduced, which simply pushes the ball down the road, ensuring more uncertainty for project funding as the next deadline approaches. It is important that our legislators do the right thing and pass the clean bill for full permanent funding through the committee. ACT NOW by calling your Senators to tell them how important the LWCF is to your community, state, and favorite public lands. Please ask them to fully fund and permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund now.

A list of federal projects supported in your state can be found here, and county project lists can be found here. The LWCF is too important to our American conservation legacy to not reauthorize it, and with many of these projects taking years to get off the ground and even more to be completed, uncertainty in funding is detrimental.

CALL TODAY! E-mail us at info@themountainpact.org with questions or for more specific talking points.

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