Historic Lands Package Passes the Senate--NEEDS HOUSE SUPPORT

On Tuesday, February 12, the Senate passed a sweeping public lands package that would provide protection for millions of acres of public lands, start a public lands restoration program for kids and veterans, and permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF expired on September 30, 2018, after 52 years of conservation funding for national, state, and local public lands projects. It's expiration left many of our communities in limbo, unsure if funding to finish certain projects would become available again.

The public lands package was introduced in December, but because of the record 35-day government shutdown did not see a vote in the Senate until last week. This was the biggest public lands package in a decade and passed with overwhelming bipartisan support with a 92-8 vote. Along with permanent reauthorization of the LWCF, the package designates 1.3 million acres as wilderness, permanently withdraws 370,000 acres of land surrounding Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain National Parks from mining, proposes four new national monuments, and proposes significant expansions to five national parks.

The package now goes to the House for consideration and could see a vote as early as next week.

Call your representatives now to urge them to vote in favor of this historic public lands package.

In an era of 'energy dominance' where public lands protections have been repeatedly removed by President Trump and the Department of Interior, it is even more important that this package gets passed with bipartisan support in the House. Our public lands are for the enjoyment of all Americans and the reauthorization of LWCF along with the other protections for public lands in this bill recognize that.

Note that reauthorization of LWCF included in this package is only the first step. If this passes the House and is signed into law, we'll then need to continue the work and push to secure full permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund - one of America's best conservation programs.