

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2007

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
B-308 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
1016 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee to restore funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) state and local grant program to \$100 million for FY 2008.

The LWCF state assistance program provides matching federal grants to states and local communities to develop outdoor recreation facilities, and resources. This competitive grant program provides funds to the states that choose local projects based on need and quality of the project. Unfortunately, the President's proposed FY 2008 budget eliminates funding for the state assistance program. An inadequate funding level for this program has had detrimental effects on communities across America, a number of which have been unable to begin certain new projects or to complete recreational planned projects without delay. This lack of funding would also mean that the growing number of youth sports teams trying to access more facilities to relieve the stress of over-crowded fields, won't be able to find such fields. Community organizations needing public recreation resources won't have such resources, and communities implementing smart growth initiatives would have increased difficulty due to the lack of federal support for public parks and recreation.

The revised USDA/HHS Dietary Guidelines call for 30 minutes of regular physical activity to promote health, psychological well-being, and a healthy body weight. Every American needs to take this call to heart, and for most Americans, local public parks and recreation areas are the place they would most likely go for daily physical activity. Our communities in every state need funding for this program, which will increase opportunities for adults and children to have better access to close to home public places to get active and stay healthy.

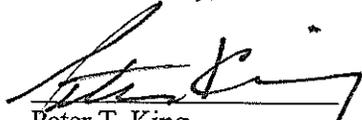
The Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance program has aided local recreation projects in over 98% of all U.S. counties, and the federal investment has been matched many times over with local funds in 40,000 sports fields, community recreation facilities, and natural parks. It is one of, if not the, most successful partnership programs, in the history of the Department of Interior, with state, and local communities. We believe that this program is vital to assisting communities that are trying to provide close to home places for all Americans to get active and stay healthy.

The LWCF matching grants especially help those communities that are facing the problems associated with exploding growth such as a critical lack of sports fields and lack of necessary community planning. These grants also assist many small communities to build possibly their only public recreation facility, a facility or park that would not exist with out the federal funds that match their local funds and make the investment possible.

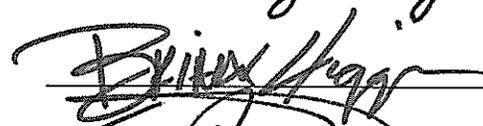
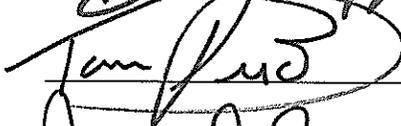
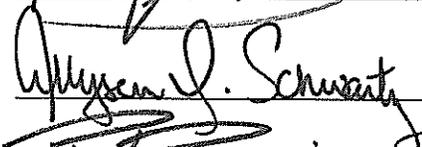
Given the national obesity crisis and the need for all Americans to have access to public places and spaces to have a place to get active and stay healthy, we strongly urge you to support an appropriation of \$100 million in FY 2008 for the LWCF state assistance program.

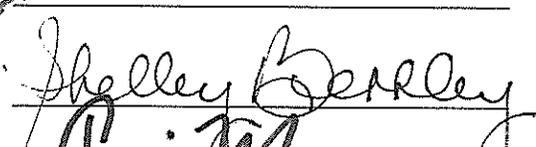
Sincerely,


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress


Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

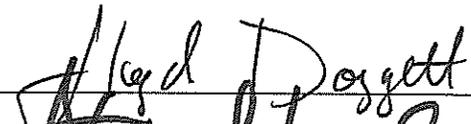





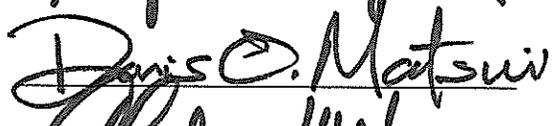
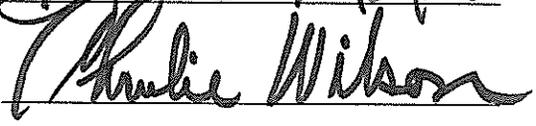
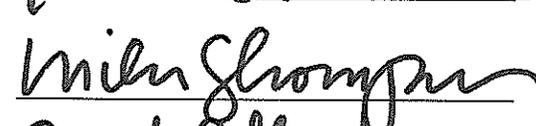









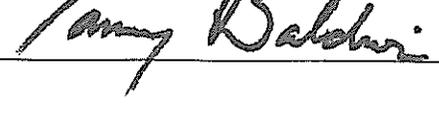









Vit All

Julia Carson

Eem Dauscher

R. D. Meve

Michael H. Michaud

Verde L. Brull

Thaddeus Pachotta

John Lewis
Michael B. McHenry

Carl Stea-Porter

William D. Delalut

Tom Peter

Bill Paswell Jr

Howard Coble

Paul Hill

Betty Sutton

Michael E. Capone

Ed Palumbo
Barbara Cubin

Carl Gunnar

Bart Gordon

Dale Hawley

Solomon J. Ortiz

Caroline B. Maloney

~~John~~

Alma del Valle

James T. Walsh

~~John~~

Dennis J. Kinnick

Tom Gell

Mike Ren

Melissa L. Bean

Micah A. Ari

Rosal. Delano

Frank LoSicco

Peter Pelletier

Elizabeth Cummings

Phil Cooper

Gerold Hadley

Tom Davis

Jim Oberstar

D. C. Brown

Bob Filner

Albert R. Uhlir

Greg M. May

John R. Ryan

Jim Langevin

Randy Kuhl
Raul M. Hijalva

John Sney

W. G. L.

Ruben Emanuel

Marie L. Herono

Dr. W. J. W.

Chas. H. Shroy

Henry E. Brown

Jim McKeen

John Schatz

Ray A. Warner

George Miller

Joe Pitt

Ronald M. Payne

Jim Moran

Lang S. Ackerman

Stephanie W. W.

Phil Abernethy

Shelley Moore Capito

Kon Kind

Jim Matheron

Jim Pitt

Judy Lora

Hank Johnson

Phil

Lair Capps

Judy Biggart

James E. Clyburn

Eric L. Enger

Rob Boucher

Gregg S. S.

Jim Saxton

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Amelia W.

J. Q.

Walter H. Fry
Hans Price
Oale E. Childs

Edward J. Markey

John B. Ruan

John Hill
Steve Kagen, M.D.

Abercrombie, Neil
Ackerman, Gary
Allen, Thomas
Arcuri, Michael A.
Baird, Brian
Baker, Richard
Baldwin, Tammy
Bean, Melissa
Berkley, Shelley
Biggert, Judy
Blumenauer, Earl
Boswell, Leonard
Boucher, Rick
Brown, Henry
Capito, Shelley Moore
Capps, Lois
Capuano, Michael
Cardoza, Dennis
Carson, Julia
Christensen, Donna
Clay, Wm. Lacy
Cleaver, Emanuel
Clyburn, James
Coble, Howard
Conyers, John
Costa, Jim
Crowley, Joseph
Cubin, Barbara
Cummings, Elijah
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Defazio, Peter
DeGette, Diana
Delahunt, William
DeLauro, Rosa
Doggett, Lloyd
Doyle, Michael
Emanuel, Rahm
Engel, Eliot
English, Phil
Filner, Bob
Fortenberry, Jeff
Fortuno, Luis G.
Fossella, Vito
Gerlach, Jim
Gilchrest, Wayne
Gordon, Bart
Green, Gene

Grijalva, Raul
Hall, John J.
Hastings, Alcee
Herseth, Stephanie
Higgins, Brian
Hirono, Mazie K.
Holt, Rush
Hooley, Darlene
Inslee, Jay
Johnson, Hank
Kagen, Steve
Kildee, Dale
Kind, Ron
King, Peter
Kucinich, Dennis
Kuhl, Randy
Langevin, James
Lantos, Tom
Larson, John
LaTourette, Steven
Levin, Sander
Lewis, John
LoBiondo, Frank
Lynch, Stephen
Maloney, Carolyn
Markey, Ed
Matheson, Jim
Matsui, Doris
McCarthy, Carolyn
McCotter, Thaddeus
McDermott, Jim
McGovern, Jim
McIntyre, Mike
McNerney, Jerry
Michaud, Mike
Miller, Brad
Miller, George
Moore, Dennis
Moran, James
Murphy, Chris
Nadler, Jerrold
Neal, Richard
Oberstar, James
Ortiz, Solomon
Pallone JR, Frank
Pascrell, Bill
Payne, Donald
Perlmutter, Ed

Petri, Thomas
Price, David
Price, Tom
Renzi, Rick
Reyes, Silvestre
Ross, Mike
Saxton, Jim
Schakowsky, Janice
Schwartz, Allyson
Scott, David
Shays, Christopher
Shea-Porter, Carol
Skelton, Ike
Smith, Adam
Snyder, Vic
Space, Zachary T.
Spratt, John
Stark, Pete
Sutton, Betty
Tauscher, Ellen
Thompson, Mike
Udall, Mark
Van Hollen, Chris
Walden, Greg
Walsh, James
Waxman, Henry
Wilson, Charlie
Wu, David
Wynn, Albert Russel