

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2010

## SUPPORT LWCF AND FOREST LEGACY FUNDING FOR OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached bipartisan letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, urging the Subcommittee to provide \$384 million for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program, \$50 million for the LWCF stateside program, and \$100 million for the Forest Legacy Program in the bill.

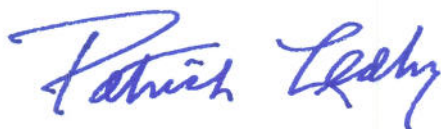
LWCF has helped to ensure the permanent protection and maintenance of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields, and historic sites. Equally important, this program has provided the matching funds to support countless state park and recreation projects in thousands of communities in every state across the nation. Forest Legacy assists states in conserving important working forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses by leveraging state and private funds.

In every state, LWCF and Forest Legacy funds have ensured that all Americans can reap the benefits of access to outdoor recreation, America's unique historic and cultural sites, water quality protection, and protected wildlife. Over the past 20 years, Forest Legacy has prevented the loss of almost 2 million acres of forestlands in 42 states and Puerto Rico, while leveraging an equal amount of state, local, and private funding for every federal dollar spent.

In addition, parks, forests, refuges, and other open spaces support the quality of life factors that can make the difference for communities seeking to attract employers and a strong work force. LWCF funds park development activities through the stateside program and increased public recreation through the federal side as new lands are opened to public recreation.

This funding will help to ensure that critical park protection and recreational development opportunities throughout the nation are not lost forever. If you would like to join us in signing this letter or if you have any questions, please contact Adrienne Wojciechowski (Senator Leahy) at [adrienne.w@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:adrienne.w@judiciary-dem.senate.gov), Trent Bauserman (Senator Shaheen) at [trent\\_bauserman@shaheen.senate.gov](mailto:trent_bauserman@shaheen.senate.gov), or Patrick Woodcock (Senator Snowe) at [patrick\\_woodcock@snowe.senate.gov](mailto:patrick_woodcock@snowe.senate.gov) by **March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

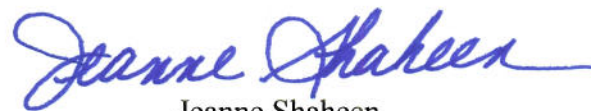
Sincerely,



Patrick Leahy



Olympia Snowe



Jeanne Shaheen