



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

August 22, 2018

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Sean Duffy
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Mark Pocan
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Glenn Grothman
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Gallagher
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to respectfully request your support to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. After the initial authorization in 1964 and two subsequent reauthorizations, the Fund is set to expire at the end of September. Without action to reauthorize the program, the nationwide legacy of high quality recreational opportunities enjoyed by sportsmen and women could be in jeopardy.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress to safeguard our natural areas and water resources while supporting public recreation opportunities. Providing national, state and local investments while not using taxpayer dollars, the Fund invests a small portion of earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to enhance public lands, improve water quality, create recreational infrastructure, promote working forests and farms, and preserve natural areas and wildlife habitats.

Wisconsin has a long history of environmental stewardship that has led to countless outdoors opportunities which so many Wisconsinites cherish. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 2.9 million people participate annually in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Wisconsin. Combined with the outdoors-based tourism industry, the Outdoor Industry Association found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$17.9 billion annually in consumer spending to Wisconsin's economy. Outdoor recreation also supports 168,000 jobs and produces \$1.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been pivotal in maintaining and growing Wisconsin's outdoor recreation and sporting industry. Over the Fund's history, \$218 million has been invested in Wisconsin to protect and improve state landmarks and tourism destinations including Devil's Lake State Park, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, High Cliff State Park, the Wolf Wild and Scenic River, the St. Croix National Scenic River, the Iron River Fish Hatchery, and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Part of this \$218 million investment includes \$28 million in the Forest Legacy Program which promotes sustainable forestry operations. This Program has established projects like the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest which supports Wisconsin's strong timber industry while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational opportunities.

The success of the projects completed through the Land and Water Conservation Fund has led to strong public support. In Wisconsin, a poll conducted in 2018 by Public Opinion Strategies and FM3 Research found that 86% of the electorate support continued funding for the program. This support stems political and regional divides, with Wisconsinites showing strong support from all corners of the state.

Wisconsin is well-known for pristine waterways, vast forests and prairies, and world-class outdoor recreation. The Fund has promoted these natural resources in Wisconsin and throughout the nation for decades without using a single dollar from taxpayers. With a commitment from Congress, more hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, boating, and wildlife watching opportunities have the potential to be created or expanded over the coming decades.

With the reasons detailed above in mind, we are asking for your support to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund before September 30th. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



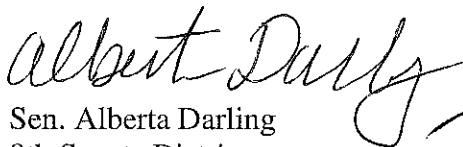
Sen. Robert Cowles
2nd Senate District



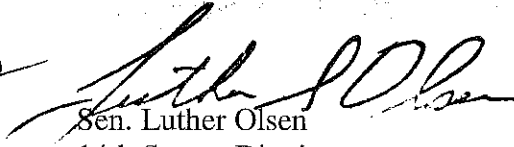
Sen. Scott Fitzgerald
13th Senate District



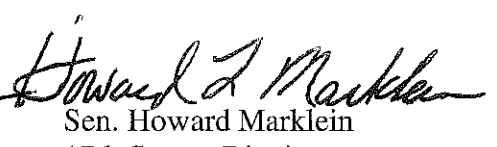
Sen. Roger Roth
19th Senate District



Sen. Alberta Darling
8th Senate District



Sen. Luther Olsen
14th Senate District



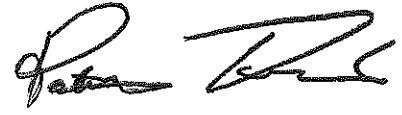
Sen. Howard Marklein
17th Senate District



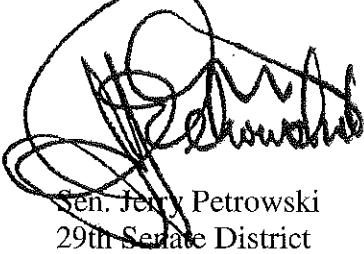
Sen. Dan Feyen
18th Senate District



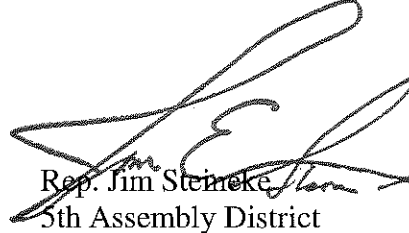
Sen. Van Wanggaard
21st Senate District



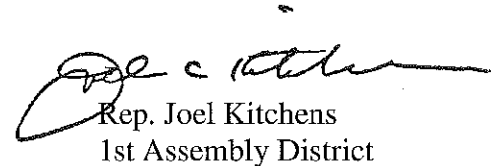
Sen. Patrick Testin
24th Senate District



Sen. Jerry Petrowski
29th Senate District



Rep. Jim Steinrueke
5th Assembly District



Rep. Joel Kitchens
1st Assembly District



Rep. David Steffen
4th Assembly District



Rep. Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District



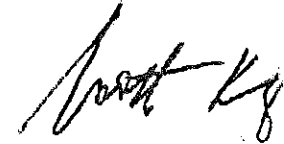
Rep. Cody Horlacher
33rd Assembly District



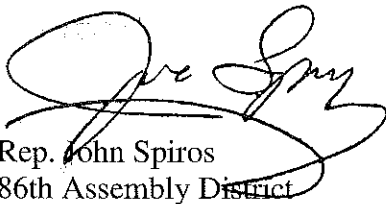
Rep. Jeffrey Mursau
36th Assembly District



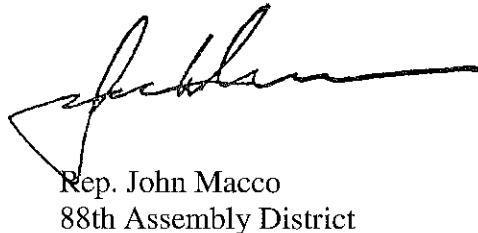
Rep. Todd Novak
51st Assembly District



Rep. Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



Rep. John Spiros
86th Assembly District



Rep. John Macco
88th Assembly District



Rep. John Nygren
89th Assembly District