

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to express our support for the National Trails System and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We are concerned that inadequate funding for these important investments would jeopardize access to the National Trails System, which would significantly impact America's \$1.06 trillion outdoor economy. We encourage you to provide sufficient funding for the National Trails System in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As you know, for FY2017, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service assembled a comprehensive land protection package focused on national historic and scenic trail projects under LWCF. These collaborative, high-priority projects will close gaps and protect critical sites along 13 of our nation's 30 national scenic and historic trails, enhance connectivity and public access for recreation and fitness, and support economic development for rural communities along the trails. Funding for these projects will help the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and their local partners meet conservation goals. Funding for these projects will also protect critical sites necessary to tell the historic and cultural stories of the trails. Together, these projects will help link together national parks and monuments, national wildlife refuges and wilderness areas across the country.

The 30 trails that make up the National Scenic and Historic Trail system vividly tell the stories of many major ethnic and cultural communities that make up our Nation. These trails are examples of how large-scale collaborative stewardship projects can help leverage federal dollars and enhance public-private partnerships. Each trail is developed and sustained through scores of long-term partnerships between federal agencies, state and local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners.


The handful of federal staff who administer and manage this system rely on the contributions of thousands of citizen volunteers to make them available for public enjoyment and reinvigoration. In 2015, volunteers along the National Trails System contributed at least one million hours valued at almost \$25 million to sustain the trails. The partner organizations also contributed almost \$12 million to benefit the trails. It is clear that the small amount of federal funds needed


to help protect and maintain these trails are highly leveraged. Additional strategic investment of federal money will leverage additional monetary and in-kind contributions many times over while simultaneously enriching the lives of millions of people and strengthening our communities.


We strongly urge the Committee to recognize the many benefits of the National Trails System by providing sufficient funding in FY2018. Thank you for your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,

  
Dave G. Reichert  
Member of Congress


  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress


  
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress


  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

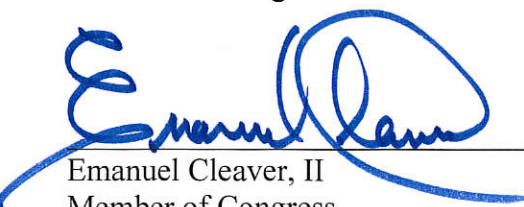
  
Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress


  
Julia Brownley  
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Judy Chu  
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Member of Congress

  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
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Steve Cohen  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



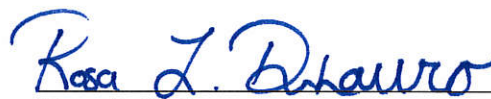
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Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



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Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



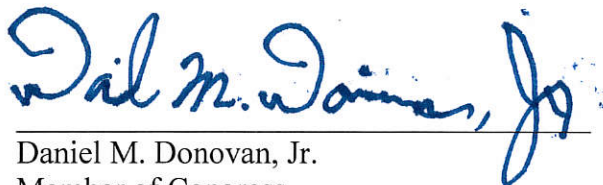
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Suzan DeBene  
Member of Congress



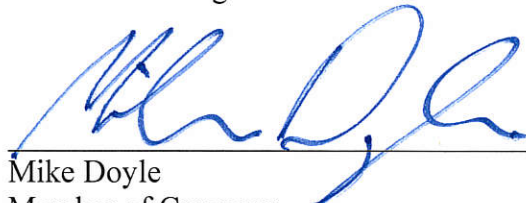
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



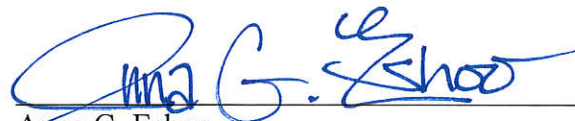
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
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Mike Doyle  
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Anna G. Eshoo  
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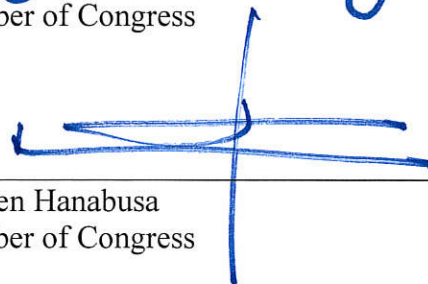
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Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



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Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

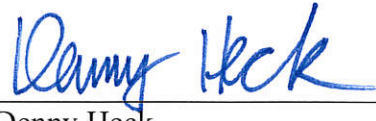


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Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



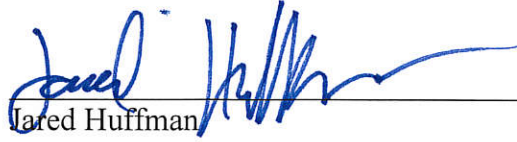
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



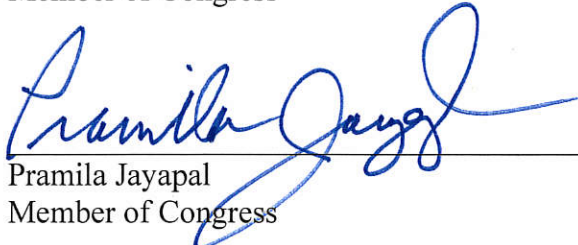
Denny Heck  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Jared Huffman  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Ro Khanna  
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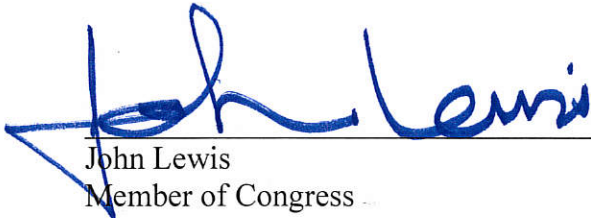
Ann McLane Kuster  
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Barbara Lee  
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John Lewis  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
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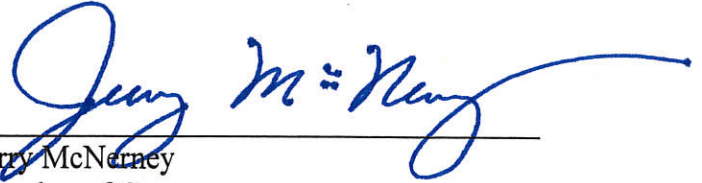
Doris Matsui  
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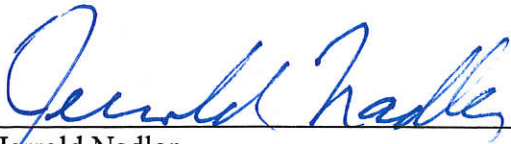
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



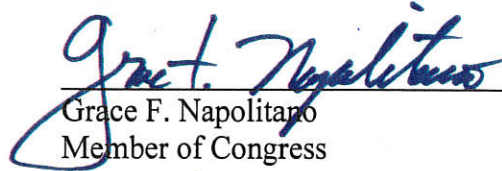
James P. McGovern  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Grace F. Napolitano  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
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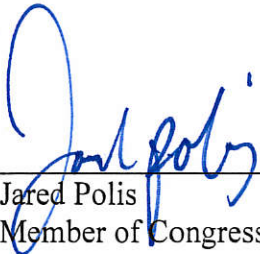
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



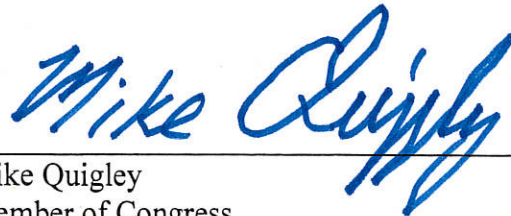
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
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Jared Polis  
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Mike Quigley  
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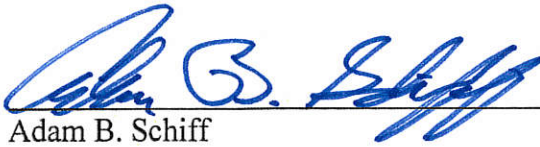
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



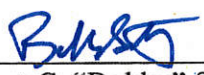
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

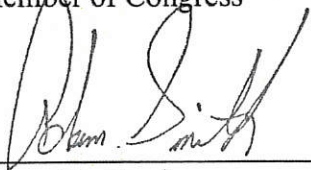
  
Linda T. Sanchez  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Kurt Schrader  
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
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Albio Sires  
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Adam Smith  
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Darren Soto  
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Jackie Speier  
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Eric Swalwell  
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