



October 11, 2017

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator
228 Federal Building
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club to request that you cosponsor S 569, introduced by Senator Cantwell, or S 896, introduced by Senator Burr. Both bills will provide for reauthorization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Together, these bills have 39 Senate co-sponsors. Your co-sponsorship will help reinforce to Senate leaders the importance of funding reauthorization.

As you know, LWCF provides funding for outdoor, parks and recreation facilities and lands across the country. It also allows the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service to acquire private inholdings from willing sellers, which makes land management easier and saves the government money.

In North Dakota, the LWCF has helped fund improvements in small-town and state parks, construct athletic complexes, hockey rinks and swimming pools in our communities and, of course, provided funding for our national wildlife refuges, grasslands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

While LWCF reauthorization is included in the Senate energy bill, there are no guarantees the bill will pass both houses of Congress or, if it does, that LWCF will be included.

Thank you for consideration, and for your continuing support for policies that protect and preserve North Dakota's communities, ecosystems and wildlands.

Sincerely,

Todd Leake, Chair
Executive Committee
Sierra Club-Dacotah Chapter