

Resolution Title

Support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund: Reviving an Urban Parks and Recreation Partnership

Submitted By

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Meeting
84th Annual Meeting

Projected Cost
\$900 million in FY17.

Resolution Text

WHEREAS, most Americans live in urban areas, which are the engines generating our nation's prosperity, keeping America competitive in the rapidly changing global market, and the most economically sound cities are the ones with ample and healthy parks and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, a key factor in business expansion and location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate parks and open space; and

WHEREAS, children living near parks have greater opportunities to be physically active by running, walking or participating in other recreational activities, thereby helping to combat the problem that one in three children in the U.S. are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is funded through revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties, a portion of which is matched by state and local contributions, thereby increasing the return on investment without using federal tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF has strong bi-partisan support and is one of the nation's most important tools for creating and protecting green space in America, but in recent years a limited amount of money has been allocated to cities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Charles Schumer of New York has introduced S.1995, the "Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act of 2015" (ORLP), which would codify the existing National Park Service program established by Congress through appropriations to complement the agency's existing Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the ORLP program seeks to identify and highlight new ways for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the LWCF at its authorized amount of \$900 million and to resurrect the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program with a request of \$25 million in its FY17 appropriations bill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its gratitude to Senator Schumer and colleagues who are working to strengthen the federal local partnership in urban parks and recreation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that the federal role in this partnership be a direct federal-city partnership with no state involvement or pass through, similar to the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama for his leadership and commitment to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its fully funded \$900 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President, all members of the Administration, and Congress to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces, and will work to engage the public and private leaders in this effort.

Link

<https://community.usmayors.org/ResolutionDetail?id=a0F61000003risLEAQ>