



SUPPORT FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

1. **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
2. **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
3. **WHEREAS**, as cities become more densely populated, and concern about the impact of climate change increases, planners, elected officials, and community advocates are turning to parks to help address critical urban infrastructure and public health issues; and
4. **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
5. **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
6. **WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán of California and Congressman Michael R. Turner of Ohio have introduced the "Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act (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
7. **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
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its gratitude to Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán of California and Congressman Michael R. Turner of Ohio and colleagues who are working to strengthen the federal local partnership in urban parks and recreation; and

9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the passage of the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act; and
10. **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
11. **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.