

August 17, 2019

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Fly Fishers International to express our support for H.B. 3195 and S. 1081 which, if enacted, will ensure full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for now and in the future.

Fly Fishers International is a global organization dedicated to the support, enhance- ment and protection of the recreational opportunities and enjoyment of fishing with the artificial fly. We do this through teaching all aspects of fly fishing and most impor- tantly through our advocacy, demonstration and voice for conservation of our natural resources.

We applaud Congress’ recent permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conser- vation Fund. The LWCF is a key part of our nation’s conservation programs and sup- ports conservation of fisheries habitat as well as ensuring access to fishing and hunt- ing opportunities for all Americans. The LWCF is of critical importance to our nation’s conservation efforts and provides support to national parks, and to state and local parks in every state in the union.

It is now time to take action that will fully fund the LWCF, now and in the future. H.B. 3195 and S.1081 will provide full funding for the LWCF and ensure that monies targeted for conservation are not diverted elsewhere. When this program was created, Congress intended for $900 million every year to be used for conservation projects. Currently, only about half of those funds actually make their way to conservation efforts. To date, more than $20 billion in LWCF funds have been diverted elsewhere.

FFI joins many other conservation groups in asking that you support S. 1081 and move it to the floor of the Senate for an affirmative vote. This will ensure that the Land and Water Conservation Fund can meet its goals to conserve and protect our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration. Most Sincerely,

Tom Logan Patrick Berry

Chairman of the Board President and CEO