

Sent: Wed, 26 Nov 2014 08:59:03 -0500
From: Molly McUsic <mcsuc@wyssfoundation.org>
To: "Podesta, John" <john_d_podesta@who.eop.gov>, "Podesta, John" </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=podesta, john d.d84">
Subject: FW: Senate letter/press/update on extenders read below

Molly McUsic | President
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From: lesley kane szynal [mailto:lkane@outdoorsamerica.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 4:53 PM
To: Molly McUsic
Subject: Senate letter/press/update on extenders read below

FYI

Wyden, Burr, 39 Other Senators Urge Funding Solution for LWCF

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Richard Burr, R-N.C., and a bipartisan coalition of 39 of their Senate colleagues urged Senate leaders Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to work with them to find a permanent funding solution for the Land and Water Conservation Fund before the end of the current Congress on Dec. 31, in a letter sent yesterday.

The LWCF program, which helps ensure access to outdoor recreation areas by providing funding to protect public lands and matching state grants, is set to expire in September 2015. In the 50 years since Congress created the program, the LWCF has helped conserve land for national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, monuments, and civil war battlefields, and served as a resource for creating and developing state and local parks in all 50 states.

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund guarantees a prosperous and vital future for the next generation while preserving our uniquely American way of life across this nation,” the senators wrote in the letter. “Accordingly, we urge you to enact a permanent and comprehensive solution for this vital program before the 113th Congress adjourns.”

The LWCF is funded almost entirely by oil and gas leasing along the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Congress authorized the fund at \$900 million through the end of the fiscal year, on Sept. 30, 2015.

Other senators who signed the letter include: Senators Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., John Walsh, D-Mont., Susan Collins, R-Maine, Michael Bennet, D-Colo., Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Tom Udall, D-N.M., Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., Joe Manchin, D-W.V., Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., Angus King, I-Maine, Kay Hagan, D-N.C., Jon Tester, D-Mont., Ben Cardin, D-Md., Tim Johnson, D-S.D., Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, Al Franken, D-Minn., Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., Chris Murphy, D-Conn., Cory Booker, D-N.J., Chris Coons, D-Del., Robert P. Casey, Jr., D-Penn., Ed Markey, D-Mass., Mark Pryor, D-Ark., Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa., Bob Menendez, D-N.J., Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Mark Udall, D-Colo., Tim Kaine, D-Va., Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.

Read the letter [here](#).

E&E Story...

CONSERVATION:

41 senators seek 'permanent' LWCF funding solution in lame duck

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Forty-one senators, including six Republicans, urged Senate leaders today to support a "permanent solution for funding" the Land and Water Conservation Fund during the lame-duck session.

The letter, spearheaded by Finance Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and sent to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), said urgent action is needed as LWCF nears expiration in September 2015.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund guarantees a prosperous and vital future for the next generation while preserving our uniquely American way of life across this nation," the senators wrote. "Accordingly, we urge you to enact a permanent and comprehensive solution for this vital program before the 113th Congress adjourns."

In addition to Burr, the other Republican signatories were Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Susan Collins of Maine and Mike Crapo of Idaho.

Enacted in 1964, LWCF allows offshore oil and gas royalties to be used for the acquisition of new lands, the conservation of private lands, urban recreation grants and endangered species protections.

While the program enjoys broad bipartisan support and is a keystone priority for the Obama administration and conservation groups, fiscal conservatives have proposed curbing or banning new land purchases until federal lands agencies can reduce a mounting maintenance backlog.

A permanent reauthorization during the lame duck -- particularly as Republicans are poised to take over the Senate -- seems a political long shot.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), the incoming heads of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, respectively, have both been leading critics of land purchases and LWCF's \$900 million in authorized spending.

"Senator Murkowski's concerns with such a proposal is the level of spending and the fact that the federal government is failing to take care of the lands it already has," said Robert Dillon, a spokesman for the senator.

Bishop supports conservationists' goal to find mandatory funding for LWCF, but he has insisted that the money be used not just on land acquisition, but also possibly to pay counties or to train oil and gas workers (*E&E Daily*, July 25). Conservationists have so far balked at the proposal. Green groups know they could have a fight on their hands to reauthorize LWCF, so there's some desire to pass a clean reauthorization while Democrats still control the Senate.

While there appears to be no clear near-term path for the Senate or House to extend LWCF, Wyden is seeking to pass a major package of tax extenders through the upper chamber in the lame duck.

Such must-pass bills are attractive vehicles to attach other legislative priorities.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Wilkins <pwilkins@trcp.org>
Subject: in case you haven't already seen this
Date: November 25, 2014 at 3:14:03 PM EST
To: lesley kane szynal <lkane@outdoorsamerica.org>

I emailed Reid's tax staffer to make one last plea on LWCF.

LAWMAKERS NEAR DEAL ON TAX EXTENDERS WITH PTC PHASE OUT: Lawmakers are nearing a major tax deal that would permanently renew several so-called tax extenders, and would phase out by 2017 the wind production credit that has been opposed by many Republicans. A corporate research and development credit as well as "Section 179" expensing would be made permanent, as would the American Opportunity Tax Credit, according to aides familiar with a pending agreement between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp. The cost of the pending plan is not immediately available, but aides said it is at least \$400 billion, all of which would be added to the deficit.

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