

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

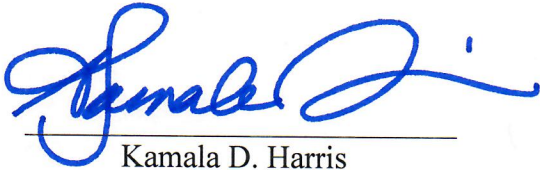
We write to express our strong support for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) initiative administered by the National Park Service and funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We respectfully request that the Subcommittee provide funding at \$30 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Interior and Environment appropriations bill. With this funding, the National Park Service could award dozens of grants to communities around the country to improve outdoor recreation infrastructure, revitalize local economies, and enhance quality of life in neighborhoods.

There is a tremendous need for outdoor recreational opportunities in the communities where most Americans live, work, and play. The ORLP, a competitive grant program, complements the traditional formula State and Local Assistance Program through a nationally competitive process that focuses on the outdoor recreation needs of communities in ways that will encourage people to connect with the outdoors. Priority is given to shovel-ready projects involving public-private partnerships, underserved communities, and those that provide youth with employment or job training opportunities. This initiative leverages non-taxpayer dollars by awarding matching grants at a minimum 1:1 ratio and allows states to put forward the projects they believe best meet the outdoor recreation needs of their communities.

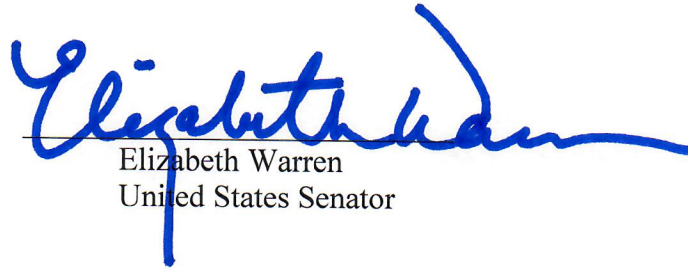
Throughout the short existence of ORLP, thirty towns and cities have been awarded a total of over \$16 million in federal funding with more than \$27 million in support from local governments, private firms, and non-profit organizations. Awarded projects have gone to 20 different states and included a range of activities from improving accessibility of playgrounds to creating canoe and kayak launches and fishing piers to restoring vacant industrial land for park uses.

We urge the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment to fund the ORLP at \$30 million in FY 2020 to support highly-leveraged investments for top-priority close-to-home outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities. As this program is included as part of the overall funding for the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program, we ask the Subcommittee to ensure that continued funding for the ORLP initiative is provided in addition to robust funding for the formula grants to the states for conservation and outdoor recreation. We thank you for considering our request and look forward to working with the Subcommittee.

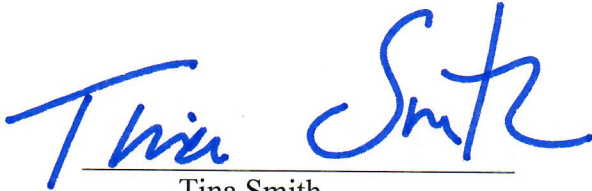
Sincerely,



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



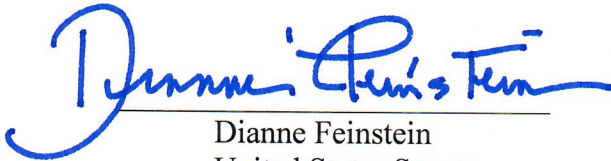
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



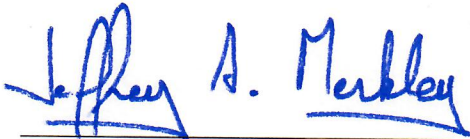
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



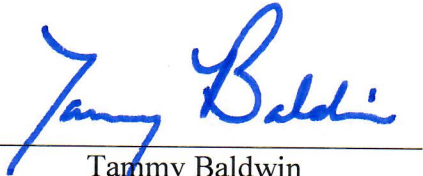
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



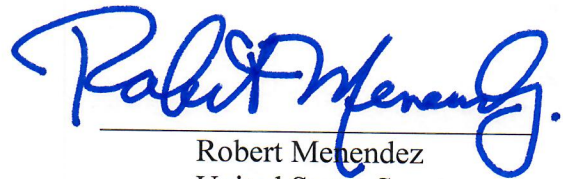
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



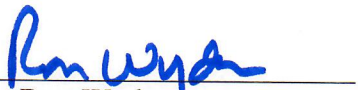
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



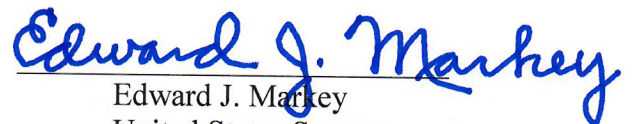
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bernard Sanders", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator