



The Honorable Donald J. Trump
United States President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

February 14, 2017

Dear President Trump:

As members of the America's Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation (AVCRP) coalition, we write to respectfully request the strongest possible funding levels relative to fiscal year 2018 for all budget function allocations that support the conservation of America's wildlife, fisheries, lands, waters, cultural resources, and their associated economic and recreational benefits. Further, our coalition is strongly opposed to the reinstatement of sequestration and urge your leadership in crafting a new budget deal that avoids sequestration.

The AVCRP includes organizations and businesses that represent millions of members who support funding for America's wildlife and other natural and cultural resources. We are united by a shared belief that our nation's natural, outdoor recreational heritage and historic resources are entrusted to us and future generations for the benefit of all Americans to enjoy. These resources are an essential foundation for the American economy. We believe, as those who preceded us believed, that the care and stewardship of these resources is a birthright we need to invest in today and in the future.

As your administration moves forward with the Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal, we want to emphasize the importance of enhancing our nation's outdoor heritage. America's wildlife, fisheries, lands, and waters produce exceptional economic value and jobs in communities across the country. Every year, more than \$107 billion in revenue and 9.4 million domestic jobs are supported by the outdoor recreation, natural resource conservation, and historic preservation economy. Annually, the outdoor recreation industry generates more than \$646 billion in economic activity on public and private lands. This translates to important jobs and other economic drivers in communities across the nation, from the local shop owner selling hunting, angling and outdoor recreation equipment to the small-town gas station supplying fuel for tourists heading to the local historic site. This results in a shared economy that is truly American-based and unexportable.

Unfortunately, the federal budget has continued to fund Function 300 — Natural Resources and Environment, the portion that sustains the conservation, outdoor recreation, and preservation economy, to only slightly more than one percent of the federal budget. Further, this portion of the

budget is steadily declining and was sequestered as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Federal funds dedicated to Function 300 support national parks, wildlife refuges, cultural resources, forests and recreation sites; working lands such as farmland and ranches; safe and plentiful water resources; marine and coastal ecosystems; urban restoration; naturally-occurring infrastructure, such as marshes and wetlands that clean our water and protect our communities from storms and droughts —all of which have large and quantifiable economic benefits.

We encourage you and your administration to work with Congressional leadership and the Budget and Appropriations Committee chairs and ranking members to identify a path forward that will sustain our outdoor and cultural heritage.

As the FY2018 budget process moves forward, members of the AVCRP coalition look forward to working with you to avoid sequestration and support the strongest possible funding levels for America's wildlife, fisheries, lands, waters, and historic and cultural resources.

Sincerely,

National organizations

American Anthropological Association
American Cultural Resources Association
American Fisheries Society
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Forests
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
B.A.S.S. LLC
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Blue Goose Alliance
Coalition for American Heritage
Delta Waterfowl
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation
Izaak Walton League of America
National Association of RC&D Councils
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
National Audubon Society
National Deer Alliance
National Parks Conservation Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Industry Association

Pheasants Forever
Pope & Young Club
Preservation Action
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology
Student Conservation Association
The Conservation Fund
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Wildlife Management Institute

State, local, and regional nonprofits and organizations

Agua Fria Open Space Alliance, Inc.
American Anthropological Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Audubon Alaska
Audubon Connecticut
Audubon Florida
Audubon Maryland-DC

Audubon New Mexico
Audubon New York
Audubon North Carolina
Audubon Rockies
Audubon Vermont
Avian Research and Conservation Institute of Florida
Bayou Land Conservancy
Beaver Creek Wetlands Association
Bethel Land Trust of Connecticut
Big Muddy Workshop, Inc.
Big Oaks Conservation Society (Friends of Big Oaks NWR)
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Bodega Land Trust
Broad River Watershed Association
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Chicago Wilderness
Cleveland County Audubon Society
Coastal Wildlife Rescue Society
Colorado Open Lands
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Conservation Land Group
Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Conserve Southwest Utah
Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology
Cragsmoor Conservancy, Inc.
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Deschutes Land Trust
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Forest Trust
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Back Bay
Friends of Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
Friends of Bombay Hook
Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Coastal South Carolina

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Heinz Refuge
Friends of High Plains Refuge Complex
Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges, Inc.
Friends of Maga Ta Hohpi Waterfowl Production Area
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Friends of Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks
Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery
Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands
Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Rappahannock National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Salton Sea State Recreation Area
Friends of Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges
Friends of Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Friends of Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges and Wetlands
Friends of St. Marks Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Carr Refuge
Friends of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Ironwood Forest
Friends of the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument
Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp
Friends Of the Morris Wetland Management District
Friends of the Occoquan
Friends of the Refuge Headwaters
Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges
Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of the Wichitas
Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
Grand Canyon Trust
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust
Green Spaces Alliance
Greenbelt Land Trust
Hawk Mountain
Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Indian River Lakes Conservancy
International Bird Rescue
International Wildlife Refuge Association
Invasive Species Action Network
Iowa Audubon
Iowa Environmental Council
Kilauea Point Natural History Association
Land Trust of Arkansas
Lummi Island Heritage Trust
Maryland Ornithological Society
Methow Conservancy
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Midcoast Conservancy
Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy
Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
Mississippi Heritage Trust
Mohonk Preserve
Montpelier Mansion
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Naturaland Trust
Nebraska Land Trust
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
New River Land Trust
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
North Country Trail Association
North Florida Land Trust, Inc.

North Shore Alliance
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Northwest Watershed Institute
Ogeechee Audubon Society
Openlands
Orange County Land Trust
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Pacifica Land Trust
PCC Farmland Trust
Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
Preservation Trust for Vermont
Preserve Rhode Island
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network
Roger Sternberg Forestry & Land Conservation Services
Salem Audubon Society
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Sea and Desert Interpretive Association
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc.
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Six Rivers Land Conservancy
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Somers Land Trust of Connecticut
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
St Louis Audubon Society
Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy
Suffolk-Nansemond, Virginia Chapter Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.
Tecumseh Land Trust
Tennessee Environmental Council
Texas Land Trust Council
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
The Moore Charitable Foundation
The Ohio Environmental Council

The Trust for Public Land
The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
The Vital Ground Foundation
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Inc.
West Central Ohio Land Conservancy
Westchester Land Trust
Western New York Land Conservancy
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Western Resource Advocates
Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association
Wildlife Mississippi
Wintonbury Land Trust