

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 53**  
**Series of 2018**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF  
AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER  
CONSERVATION FUND**

**WHEREAS**, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), established by Congress in 1964, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country's precious natural and cultural resources and improving equitable access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities, which is essential to Colorado's health, culture, economic opportunity and the future of our children and grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, LWCF has been instrumental in creating opportunities for Coloradans in urban, suburban, and rural areas to get outdoors. It has been a critical tool in conserving national parks and historic sites; national wildlife refuges and monuments; watersheds; working forests; wildlife areas; and state and local parks, trails and ball fields; and

**WHEREAS**, LWCF is based on the simple premise that as we extract natural resources that belong to our nation – offshore oil and gas – we should in turn protect and invest in onshore resources for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's important public lands for future generations – be that an iconic national park or an urban playground; and

**WHEREAS**, though LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been met only twice during the program's nearly five decades of existence and, instead of being fully funded, nearly every year Congress diverts much of this funding to purposes other than conserving our most important lands and waters; and

**WHEREAS**, despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 53 years, LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state and nearly every county, has improved access to these public lands, and has provided matching grants for the creation of more than 41,000 state and local park projects; and

**WHEREAS**, LWCF supports and maintains the economic asset that our federal, state and local public lands represent. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation activities contribute a total of \$28 billion annually to the Colorado's economy and support 229,000 jobs in our state (source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). Whether manufacturing, retail or service related, most of these jobs are sustainable resource or tourism-based jobs and cannot be exported; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado has received more than 980 state side LWCF grants to local governments and state parks, including more than 80 grants to Jefferson County alone, totaling over \$268 million and touching nearly all of the state's counties; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last 53 years, LWCF funding has contributed to the enhancement of local parks and recreational opportunities that are part of the fabric of the City of Wheat Ridge, including Anderson Park, the Anderson Park Swimming Pool, numerous parks and green spaces in nearby Denver, Lakewood, Golden and Arvada, as well as the protection of iconic landscapes in the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Uncompahgre, Arapahoe-Roosevelt, Gunnison and Rio Grande National Forests, and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument.

**WHEREAS**, the parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding are green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of Colorado families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was initially authorized in 1965 by the President and Congress and will expire on September 30, 2018; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Wheat Ridge expresses support for and urges Congress to act swiftly to enact full funding for and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and Colorado's health, well-being, economic opportunity and access to our nation's natural treasures; and:

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the entire Colorado Congressional Delegation to show support for the fully funding and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**DONE AND RESOLVED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

  
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Bud Starker, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

