

Hon. Aimee K. Jorjani  
Chairman

Leonard A. Forsman  
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler  
Executive Director



June 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Representative Grijalva, and Representative Bishop:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422/H.R.7092). Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation. I previously conveyed the ACHP's support for the bill (see attached), but wish to reiterate it in light of the bill's recent passage in the Senate and the introduction of an identical bill in the House.

The Great American Outdoors Act offers a historic opportunity, both to conserve natural and cultural resources for future generations and also to help address our current national crisis. I urge you to seize this opportunity and support passage of a clean bill without amendments.

While the bill was drafted long before the advent of COVID-19, its passage would help to sustain and assist local communities in their recovery from the pandemic. It would create new jobs to address deferred maintenance of federal properties while also pumping additional parks and recreation funding into local economies. Additionally, the bill would help to preserve the parks and open spaces that Americans are craving as an antidote to the constraints and stress of the pandemic.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the ACHP's unqualified support for the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,

Aimee K. Jorjani  
Chairman

Attachment

Hon. Aimee K. Jorjani  
Chairman

Leonard A. Forsman  
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler  
Executive Director



March 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422). Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation. The ACHP members voted unanimously at their March 13 business meeting to support this legislation. We are conveying our support to you in hopes that the House soon will be taking up this Senate bill or developing a companion bill. We are pleased to see that the House has several standalone bills addressing the goals of S. 3422 under consideration.

S. 3422, introduced by Senator Cory Gardner (CO), would provide \$9.5 billion over five years to address a federal agency deferred maintenance backlog, principally in our National Parks. The Department of the Interior estimates it currently has a backlog of about \$16.4 billion worth of deferred maintenance. The largest portion of that total—\$12 billion—reflects needed maintenance of National Park Service (NPS) properties. It has been estimated that approximately 47 percent of the NPS assets needing repair are historic, making deferred maintenance a significant threat to the long-term preservation of NPS's inventory of historic properties. Left unchecked, such deferred maintenance could jeopardize the enjoyment by future generations of irreplaceable historic properties throughout our National Parks.

S. 3422 proposes the creation of the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund from federal energy development revenues, which builds upon existing congressional policy precedent. Both the Historic Preservation Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) are funded by energy development revenues, and the successful track record of these funds demonstrates the wisdom inherent in using such revenues to help preserve natural and cultural resources.

The past achievements of the LWCF argue for its full and permanent funding, as proposed in S. 3422. The LWCF funds federal land acquisition for outdoor recreation and matching grants to state and tribal governments for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites. However, less than half of the funding set aside for the LWCF has been appropriated for intended purposes since the program was created. S. 3422 would ensure full funding in the future, while still giving Congress input into how the money is spent. The LWCF focuses in large part on conserving natural and recreational resources, but also is an important source of federal funding for protecting cultural resources.

The ACHP applauds the leadership of President Trump, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, and the many bipartisan co-sponsors of S. 3422 and similar bills in the House. This important legislation will

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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significantly aid in the preservation of historic properties. Please feel free to contact us if the ACHP can answer any questions regarding our support for the Great American Outdoors Act or if the ACHP can be of any further assistance. Our executive director, John Fowler, may be reached at (202) 517-0200.

Sincerely,



Aimee K. Jorjani  
Chairman

cc: House Natural Resources Committee