March 8, 2018

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Grijalva:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 502, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This legislation is extremely important to the entire outdoor recreation community, from hunters and anglers to mountain bikers and hikers. We are pleased to join a broad coalition of organizations supporting the permanent reauthorization of LWCF.

Since 1964, LWCF has advanced important recreation projects in local communities and in all 50 states. National Parks, Fish and Wildlife refuges, and local community parks are some of the many recreation sites that have benefited from LWCF support. H.R. 502 would ensure this successful program continues for the next 50+ years and beyond.

We are equally pleased with the provision that would direct 1.5% of LWCF resources, or $10 million, whichever is greater, for hunting and fishing access. Disparate land ownership patterns in the West often create bottlenecks and barriers for sportsmen access to large blocks of federal lands. This provision of H.R. 502 would remove these barriers and safeguard and enhance access to backcountry hunting and recreation on our federal lands.

Vista Outdoor is a leading outdoor recreation company. We have more than 50 iconic brands that operate in a variety of outdoor markets, from hunting and bird watching to mountain biking and stand up paddleboards. Our conservation mission is outlined in the Vista Outdoor Conservation Compass, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund aligns with the core tenants of the Compass.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to get this LWCF reauthorized. Should you need further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Fred Ferguson
VP, Government and Industry Relations
Vista Outdoor