

RESOLUTION NO. 29657

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION  
OF FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER  
CONSERVATION FUND.

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WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by Congress in 1965, is one of the most successful programs for preserving our country's irreplaceable natural and cultural resources and for improving equitable access to the outdoors for urban and rural communities, which is essential to Tennessee's health, culture, economy, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, said Land and Water Conservation Fund has been instrumental in creating opportunities for Tennesseans 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; watersheds; working forests; wildlife areas; and state and local parks, trails, and ball fields; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund 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 conserve and invest in outdoor resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, said Land and Water Conservation Fund takes a portion of existing royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's important public lands for future generations – all at no cost to the American taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, though said Land and Water Conservation Fund is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been met only twice during the more than five decades the

program has existed and, instead of being fully funded, Congress diverts much of this funding nearly every year 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 half century, the Land and Water Conservation Fund 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, said Land and Water Conservation Fund supports and maintains the productive economic engine that our federal, state, and local public lands represent. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, and other outdoor recreation activities contribute \$21.6 billion annually to Tennessee's economy and support 188,000 jobs in our state. Whether manufacturing, retail or service related, most of these jobs are a sustainable resource for tourism-based jobs and cannot be exported; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has received more than 750 stateside grants to local governments in the State, totaling more than \$73 million and touching nearly every county in our state through the Land and Water Conservation Fund's stateside funding; and

WHEREAS, over its history, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, has preserved public lands that are critical to Tennessee and Chattanooga, including: Lookout Mountain Recreation Areas, Signal Mountain Recreation Areas, Chattanooga Riverwalk, Moccasin Bend Recreation Area among others; as well as other public lands and community parks, ball fields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon this program's funding are green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of Tennessee families; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund will expire on September 30, 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, that it hereby expresses support for, and urges Congress to act swiftly to enact funding for and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund given its important contributions to our nation and Tennessee's health, well-being, economic opportunity, and access to America's natural treasures.

ADOPTED: October 16, 2018

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