



Environment North Carolina  
112 S. Blount Street, Suite 102  
Raleigh, NC  
919-833-0015

March 5, 2013

Dear President Obama,

From the mountains of the Nantahala to the shores of the Croatan, our parks, forests, waterways and wildlife refuges are the best of our natural legacy, where many North Carolinians make some of our most cherished memories. Yet many of North Carolina's public lands are facing increasing threats from nearby development and pollution.

As a far-reaching coalition ranging from hunters and anglers, conservationists, businesses, and elected leaders, we urge you to protect our most treasured natural areas – places like the Blue Ridge Parkway in western North Carolina and Croatan National Forest on the coast – where North Carolinians have the opportunity to enjoy hiking, biking, camping, hunting, and fishing. We hope that you will ensure their long-term protection by calling for full, permanent and dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY14 budget and for the remainder of your term as president.

The annual diversion of LWCF funds to non-conservation purposes has left a long legacy of backlogged conservation projects and missed opportunities to safeguard our natural heritage. To prevent overdevelopment and increased pollution from continuing to threaten North Carolina's environment, we urge you to address the underfunding of our nation's premier program for land and water protection.

Our parks and forests provide habitat for rare wildlife. They help clean the air we breathe. They serve as respite from our growing metropolitan areas. And they are the lifeblood of so many of our state's businesses. These special places serve as a destination for outdoor enthusiasts—from the family who travels the Parkway to the avid hiker who comes to scale the Smokies' majestic peaks, to the angler who comes to catch smallmouth bass in the clean waters of the French Broad. And it isn't just about tourism. Many citizens, and future employees, choose to live in these areas precisely because of their natural beauty.

We applaud your recommendation of \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in your FY12 budget. As a historic step towards providing this country's parks, forests, waterways and wildlife refuges with the environmental protection they need and deserve, we urge you to call for full, permanent, and dedicated funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund in your FY14 budget.

Sincerely,

Shelby Bishop  
Townsend Bertram Company  
Carrboro, NC

Carolyn Wagner  
Rum Runner Dive Shop  
Winterville, NC

Looking Glass Outfitters  
Pisgah, NC

Great Outdoor Provisions  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Charlotte, NC  
Raleigh, NC

NC Hunter Supply  
Raleigh, NC

Jeff Curtis  
Curtis Wright Outfitters  
Weaverville, NC

Foothills Equestrian Nature Center  
Tryon, NC

Larry Merrill  
Applewood Manor Inn  
Asheville, NC

Marilyn's Melrose Inn  
Tryon, NC

Burke Manor Inn  
Gibsonville, NC

Albermarle Inn  
Asheville, NC

The Orchard Inn  
Saluda, NC

Jill Gottesman  
The Wilderness Society  
Sylva, NC

Julie Mayfield  
Western North Carolina Alliance  
Asheville, NC

Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Asheville, NC

Mountain Keepers  
Asheville, NC

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy  
Hendersonville, NC

Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance  
Hickory, NC

Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina  
Morganton, NC

River Link  
Asheville, NC

Land Trust for the Little Tennessee  
Franklin, NC

Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains  
Waynesville, NC

Southern Appalachian Highlands  
Conservancy  
Asheville, NC

Environment North Carolina  
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