

August 4, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

We are writing to express our strong support for the climate and conservation program investments included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, including proposed substantial investment in the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). Funding for this vital program will meaningfully advance natural climate solutions that are urgently needed, while also providing benefits for local economies, communities, and access to the outdoors for all.

Established by Congress in 1990 and administered through the USDA Forest Service, FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. Funding for the FLP will protect forests, sequester carbon, connect landscapes, and make our communities healthier and more resilient. To date, the program has protected some 2.9 million acres of sustainable working forest lands, bringing together federal, state, and private partners and funding to achieve massive forest climate benefits while protecting and maintaining forest jobs, recreational access, wildlife habitat, and clean water. These partnerships also are essential for aquifer recharge and cost-effective natural water filtration and storage that in turn significantly reduces wildfire risks and the associated loss of carbon storage. At the same time, FLP investments contribute to climate-smart development by preventing unwise residential expansion into the Wildland Urban Interface.

The forest conservation investments in the reconciliation bill are vital to fight the climate crisis through carbon sequestration, drinking water protection, and habitat and community resilience. We appreciate your work to protect America's forestlands, communities and natural resources, and we look forward to working with you to ensure these urgently needed investments are included in final legislation.

Sincerely,

7 Lakes Alliance
7 Oaks Ranch
Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Alachua Conservation Trust
Alameda Connects
Alameda Corridor Business Improvement
District
Alpine Shop, Ltd.

American Forests
American Hiking Society
American Society of Landscape Architects
Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arizona Trail Association
Arroyo Seco Foundation
Ashley Sportsmans Club

Atlantic Salmon Federation
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Bearcub Outfitters
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Blue Ridge Conservancy
Cadillac Area Land Conservancy
Californians for Western Wilderness
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Central Coast Land Conservancy
Chesapeake Conservancy
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Ornithology Association
Conserving Carolina
Contempo Communications Foundation for
the Arts Inc.
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Cypress Chapter Izaak Walton League
Dishman Hills Conservancy
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Eno River Association
Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina
Forest Society of Maine
Forterra
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Gaia Graphics and Associates
Garden Club of America
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for
Land Trusts
GoodFood World
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Great Peninsula Conservancy
Groundwork Lawrence
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hood River Forest Collaborative
Housatonic Valley Association
IDEAS For Us
Inland Northwest Land Conservancy
International Mountain Bicycling
Association
Izaak Walton League of America
Ki Concepts
League of Conservation Voters

Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
Lummi Island Heritage Trust
Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust
Maine Audubon
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Lakes
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners
Association
Maine Recreation and Parks Association
Mainspring Conservation Trust
Mercury Press International
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Montana Association of Land Trusts
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mormon Trails Association
Mountain Mamas
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Mugglestone Gardens
National Coast Trail Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Washington Rochambeau
Revolutionary Route Association
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Natural Resources Council of Maine
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
New River Conservancy
New York League of Conservation Voters
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
North Coast Land Conservancy
North Florida Land Trust
North Oakland Headwaters Land
Conservancy
Northwest Watershed Institute
Northwoods Alliance Inc
NV5
Ohio Veterans Outdoors, Inc.
OLIN
Open Space Institute
Operation 9-2-99
Oregon Trails Coalition
Overmountain Victory Trail Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Palouse Land Trust
Park Watershed
Parks & Trails New York
Partners in Forestry

Partners in Forestry Woodland Landowners
Coop.
Partnership for the National Trails System
PeopleForBikes
Piedmont Land Conservancy
Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
Portland Parks Conservancy
Potomac Valley Audubon Society
Prickly Pear Land Trust
San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust
San Luis Obispo Parks, Open Space and
Trails Foundation
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
Scenic America
Skagit Audubon
Smith River Alliance
Sno-King Watershed Council
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Somers Land Trust
South Florida Wildlands Association
South Jersey Land & Water Trust
Southern Appalachian Highlands
Conservancy
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Spottswoode Winery, Inc.
Studio CCLA, LLC
The Conservation Fund
The Friends of Rachel Carson National
Wildlife Refuge

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
The Lyme Timber Company
The Mountain Pact
The Mountaineers
The Nature Conservancy
The North Shore Land Alliance
Trust for Public Land
The Vital Ground Foundation
Three Rivers Land Trust
Transition Fidalgo
Triangle Land Conservancy
Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Voyageurs Conservancy
Wallowa Land Trust
Washington Association of Land Trusts
Washington Trails Association
West Springfield Park and Recreation
West Virginia Outdoor Heritage
Conservation Fund
Western Foothills Land Trust
Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Wild Montana
Wild Rivers Land Trust
Wildlands Network
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wind Dance Farm & Earth Education
Center
Winyah Rivers Alliance