

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
2300 15TH STREET
SUITE 450
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

July 21, 2010

Majority Leader Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

As the Senate takes up comprehensive energy legislation, I write to identify full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as one of my priorities in the bill. While a host of worthy provisions warrant inclusion in your important legislation, full funding for LWCF would fit well into a bill that is projected to reexamine regulation and revenues surrounding offshore drilling.

When LWCF was passed in 1965, the Fund was supposed to be funded at \$900 million taken from offshore leasing revenues. This presents an equitable solution to preserving an important natural resource for the American public, pristine public land, through revenue provided by the extraction of a fossil fuel. Unfortunately, full funding for this important program has only been realized once, and this initiative has been chronically underfunded in previous administrations.

The LWCF has been instrumental in protecting countless tracts of sensitive land in Colorado. These protected areas foster outdoor recreation accounting for \$10 billion in revenues annually and supporting 107,000 jobs.

A comprehensive energy bill should include a litany of measures to transition us into a clean energy future, many of which I've outlined in previous letters to you. As your legislation is expected to reform offshore drilling and revenue distribution, I wanted to advocate for full funding for LWCF as you draft a comprehensive bill. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator