

June 19, 2013

Honorable Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mrs. Obama and Secretary Jewell:

As you are both powerful advocates for healthy and active communities, we want to thank you for the President's commitment to creating places for children to play outside through investments in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We also want to thank you for your support for LWCF in the FY14 budget and request that you encourage Congress to fully and permanently fund the program.

As you know, LWCF plays an important role in protecting some of our country's most valuable public lands, balancing development with conservation of public lands and providing opportunities for families to enjoy places such as Chattahoochee River NRA, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Mount Rainier National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In addition, a portion of LWCF money provides much-needed resources for rural and urban communities looking to combat childhood obesity by increasing the number of safe places for kids to walk and play outside. State and local governments in every county in the U.S. have used LWCF matching grants to build or renovate playgrounds, parks, swimming pools, urban bike paths, soccer fields, baseball fields and other facilities. LWCF funding has supported more than 41,000 local projects over the last 50 years. We are also pleased to note that the FY14 President's budget also includes funding for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) through LWCF, bringing additional opportunities for a healthy lifestyle to urban America.

In a recent [speech](#), Mrs. Obama recognized the value of LWCF and other Department of the Interior initiatives saying, "What you do here at Interior is absolutely critical for our children's health and well-being ... It's important to expose our kids to the natural resources available right here in this country."

Unfortunately, although hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties are paid into LWCF each year by energy companies drilling for oil and gas offshore, Congress diverts nearly all of this money to other purposes, dramatically impacting efforts to build safe places for kids to get outside.

Importantly, the President is now working to reverse this trend, proposing in his 2014 budget that \$600 million from oil and gas revenues be invested in LWCF and that the program be fully funded by 2015.

Please consider making LWCF a priority of the Let's Move initiative, joining with our organizations to voice your support for Congress to fully and permanently fund LWCF – a valuable resource for communities to use in the fight against childhood obesity.

We are eager to stand with you in fighting for the health of America's families.

Sincerely,

Action for Healthy Kids

KaBoom!

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

LiveWell Colorado

American College of Sports Medicine

MomsRising.org

American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

NAACP

American Planning Association

National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity

America Walks

National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity, a program of ChangeLab Solutions

Center for Community Progress

Trust for America's Health

Center for Science in the Public Interest

U.S. Soccer Foundation

Groundwork USA