

November 27, 2018

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the Washington Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the fastest growing organization that represents sportsmen and women in North America, we want to express our strong appreciation for your leadership on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and for steadfastly supporting legislation important to our members and other hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

As you negotiate a lands package, we ask that you continue to champion bipartisan legislation permanently reauthorizing and fully dedicating funds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Your significant leadership on LWCF has been tremendous—it supports our Northwest natural heritage, the millions of Washingtonians who enjoy it each year and the thriving outdoor economy they support. We appreciate your efforts in passing your bill, S. 569, through committee and we hope to see similar legislation enacted before the 115th Congress adjourns.

We also ask you to include provisions from Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and your bipartisan energy package, Energy and Natural Resources Act (S. 1460), in an end-of-the-year deal. These provisions include:

- Section 6105, which prohibits industrial mining in Washington's upper Methow Valley;
- Section 6106, which designates approximately 99,654 acres of Forest Service land in the Umpqua River watershed as a special management area named after a World War II veteran and Oregon conservation leaders, Frank and Jeanne Moore;
- Section 8102, which states that our public lands are open unless closed by the Secretary of Interior in accordance to current laws;
- Section 8403, which reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) at \$50 million.

These provisions enhance recreational opportunities and safeguard our wild public lands, waters and wildlife for future generations.

Your continued support to advance the Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation and some of your bipartisan energy package provisions are critical during end-of-year negotiations. We appreciate your strong support for these bills as your work concludes for the 115th Congress.

Sincerely,

Max A. Cole
West Side Co-Chair
Washington Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Bart George
East Side Co-Chair
Washington Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Chase Gunnell
Conservation Chair
Washington Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers