

RESOLUTION NO. 10 6-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF LEAST 40% OF TOTAL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) BE DIRECTED TO THE STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STATE AND LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCIES.

**WHEREAS** the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1965 to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States;” and

**WHEREAS**, the LWCF is principally funded by revenue received from off-shore energy extraction, and is authorized to receive \$900 million annually through the annual appropriations process; and

**WHEREAS** the LWCF funds a federal land acquisition program and provides matching grants to states and localities for capital projects through the State Assistance program; and

**WHEREAS**, investments from the LWCF State Assistance program support the creation of public parks in rural and urban communities throughout America, protect green space and local water supplies, guarantee outdoor recreation opportunities, spur economic development, create jobs and significantly aid national efforts to promote health, connect youth to nature and the outdoors, combat childhood obesity and protect the environment; and

**WHEREAS** in the original authorizing legislation, Congress recognized the important role of state and local parks in achieving its intended purpose by requiring the allocation of 60% of LWCF annual funding to the State Assistance program and 40% to the federal program; and

**WHEREAS** the language protecting the State Assistance program was removed in the mid 1970s resulting in a disproportional amount (84%) of LWCF funding going to the federal side of the program over the past 25 years; and

**WHEREAS** no language exists to protect the State Assistance funding allocations, and Congress appropriated a total of approximately \$304 million to LWCF in FY 2009 but allocated only \$19 million (6%) to the State Assistance program, and in FY 2010 appropriated a total of approximately \$479 million to LWCF with a mere \$40 million (8%) going to the State Assistance program; and

**WHEREAS** Washington State received only \$551,547 in FY2009 and \$757,241 in FY2010; and

**WHEREAS** the disproportional allocation of LWCF funding between the two programs has severely limited state and local governments in their capacity to develop parks and open spaces and protect green space and local water supplies in light of rapidly increasing populations; and

**WHEREAS**, LWCF provides one-time funding for state and local capital projects and state and local governments equally match the federal dollars, then assume all costs of management and maintenance;

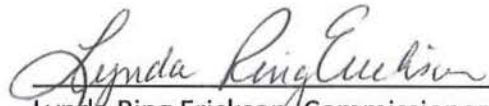
**WHEREAS** the LWCF State Assistance program has invested more than \$70,282,953 and 576 projects in Washington since 1965 and has funded projects such as Oakland Bay County Park Improvement Project and the Sunset Bluff View Park acquisition project; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Washington has \$227,400,000 in unmet need for LWCF State Assistance projects, and Mason County has numerous projects that would qualify for LWCF State Assistance funding such as North Bay Trail Development Project and Sunset Bluff Park Improvements; and

**WHEREAS** requiring 40% of LWCF funds to be annually allocated to the State Assistance program would not increase the national debt, but would ensure a more balanced allocation of resources between federal land acquisition and state and local community conservation efforts, as intended by the authorizing legislation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mason County Board of County Commissioners calls on Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least 40% of LWCF funds to the State Assistance program.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

  
Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

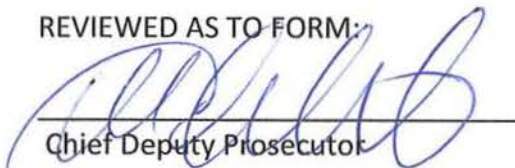
  
Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Board

  
Ross Gallagher, Chairperson

REVIEWED AS TO FORM:

  
Chief Deputy Prosecutor

C: Parks and Trails Department