

# County of Monterey



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: S. 448, Outdoors for All Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for S. 448, the Outdoors for All Act. Thank you for introducing this bipartisan legislation that would create a dedicated source of funding for local projects that expand outdoor recreational opportunities in urban and low-income communities across the nation. We also appreciate that this is bicameral with the House companion, H.R. 1065.

The Outdoors for All Act would codify and establish a dedicated source of funding for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which Congress established in 2014. ORLP is administered by the National Park Service and funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a nationally competitive grant program to increase access to the outdoors for disadvantaged communities. The program enables urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities. The bill specifically invests in parks and open spaces in areas where 80% of Americans live. Any urban area with a population of at least 30,000 can qualify for a grant.

The County of Monterey and our local municipalities would benefit greatly from an additional source of funding to develop parks and recreational areas, especially those that cater to the interests of younger people. The County has supported efforts to secure funding at the state level for new park projects, but additional federal funding is needed in many cases to fully develop the type of project that offers improved facilities and safe public recreation experiences to the community.

We appreciate your support for the County of Monterey, and we thank you for sponsoring S. 448, the Outdoors for All Act.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District