



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

October 3, 2019

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 500 (Portman) Restore Our Parks Act

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Senate Bill 500 (Portman), the Restore Our Parks Act. This legislation proposes to deposit 50 percent of revenues derived from energy development generated on federal land from fiscal years 2020 until 2025 into a proposed National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to primarily address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service.

Long Beach promotes livability to encourage healthy, active lifestyles, with parks serving as a crucial component. The City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) ranks as 18th among the 100 largest U.S. cities in the Trust for Public Land 2019 Parkscore® Index survey. Additionally, PRM is a four-time recipient of the National Parks and Recreation Association Gold Medal Award. The City is committed to supporting parks, recreation, and marine infrastructure for the good of the community and environment.

While Long Beach is committed to promoting livability, it is clear a national focus is needed. In recent years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has faced budget restraints and energy consumption is projected to increase as a result of population growth and climate change. As the EPA's funding regresses, alternative funding mechanisms become vital. Coordinated funds from S. 500 would enhance federal land for visitors and the environment.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports S. 500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District