

Committee of Jurisdiction: Public Lands

Title of Resolution: Direct America the Beautiful initiative resources to county and regional partnerships.

Issue: The American the Beautiful initiative offers the opportunity for the Federal Government to develop and fund partnership opportunities for county park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities to promote environmental stewardship and healthy communities in areas with the greatest need.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) strongly encourages the Federal Government to further develop and fund partnership opportunities for county park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities to achieve the conservation, economic and healthy communities intent behind the America the Beautiful Initiative.

Background: Executive Order 14008 outlines an ambitious call to action to work together to conserve, connect, and restore 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 (30x30). County park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities typically are the largest public landowners in urbanized areas. These agencies are responsible for conservation, restoration, and stewardship of public lands that are far more heavily visited than the vast yet remote land holdings of the Federal Government. Urban open space is under much greater threat from continued growth than our rural areas and can provide additional co-benefits by contributing to equity and environmental justice goals.

The 30x30 initiative offers an opportunity for the federal government to develop and fund regional and local level partnerships that focus on stewardship and enhancement of existing conservation resources in urban areas.

NACo's continued support for the inclusion of county park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities for funding and partnership in the 30x30 initiative is needed to ensure support for stewardship in the areas of greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Encourages federal funding for Counties' stewardship of their lands.

Sponsor:

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