

Committee of Jurisdiction: Public Lands

Title of Resolution: Support of the RENEW Conservation Corps Act

Issue: county park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities across the country need the additional resources of a robust conservation corps to meet growing staffing and deferred maintenance needs.

Proposed Policy: NACo supports passage and funding of the Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work (RENEW) Conservation Corps Act or similar bill.

Background: The Nation's public lands and parks face a back log of maintenance of facilities and stewardship of its national resources. There are over 3,100 county park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities across the country who face stiff competition for entry-level workers. The RENEW Conservation Corps would provide new funding and new youth employment opportunities for these park agencies and would be a significant help in addressing on going worker shortages as well as deferred maintenance.

Enactment of the RENEW Conservation Corps Act, or a similar bill, would provide the following positive benefits:

- Help address the national backlog of deferred maintenance and stewardship in local, county, regional, state and federal parks and natural resource lands;
- Train and develop the next generation of conservation leaders;
- Improve the quality of life and outdoor experiences of people of the United States;
- Make communities, especially communities that are traditionally underserved, more resilient to climate change, natural disasters, and wildfires; and
- Provide access to outdoor recreation opportunities to all people of the United States; and
- Benefit the economy and environment of the United States.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Passage and funding of the RENEW Conservation Corps Act or similar bill would provide federal funds to all interested counties to be used for youth employment focusing on natural resources and parks through a structured Conservation Corps program.

Sponsors:

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Additional co-sponsors to date:

Hennepin County (MN) Commissioner Marion Greene