

**SUNUNU APPLAUDS BUDGET COMMITMENT TO
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

House to consider President Bush's historical program increase as part of FY 2002 House Budget Resolution; measure would help to preserve millions of acres of land across country

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. John E. Sununu (R-NH) today lauded Land and Water Conservation Fund funding increases contained in the proposed FY 2002 House Budget Resolution as responsible investing that will help preserve millions of acres of open space in New Hampshire and across the country.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the FY 2002 House Budget Resolution today (Wednesday, March 28). The spending blueprint for the federal government was recommended for passage by the House Budget Committee on March 21.

“President Bush has made an historic commitment to land conservation by requesting full funding for LWCF of \$900 million starting in Fiscal Year 2002,” said Sununu, Vice Chairman of the House Budget Committee and long-time supporter of the program. “As we set aside these funds for protecting additional lands, however, we must make sure that we do not ignore the maintenance needs of existing national parks and forests. I will continue to work to strengthen funding for the Forest and Park Service so that treasures such as the White Mountains will be preserved for future generations.”

“The LWCF - a federal initiative endorsed by conservatives all across the country - has enabled us to preserve millions of acres of forests, parks, and wildlife refuges,” Sununu continued. “The increase of \$356 million in funding over 2001 will provide states with essential resources with which to strengthen conservation initiatives and expand preservation of important lands.”

Among the New Hampshire projects to have benefitted from LWCF program in the past are the Seacoast's Prescott Park and Odiorne Point State Park, the North Country's Lake Tarleton, Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and White Mountain National Forest, and central New Hampshire's Pawtuckaway and Bear Brook State Parks.