



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Justice for God's planet and God's people.

Creation Justice Ministries Celebrates United States Senate's Passage of Largest Public Lands Package in a Decade

Creation Justice Ministries applauds this week's bipartisan 92-8 vote by the United States Senate to pass the most significant piece of public lands and waters conservation legislation in a decade. This bill demonstrates a shared American value of stewardship by protecting hundreds of miles of rivers and millions of acres which serve as important habitat for a diversity of plants and animals.

This bi-partisan effort to protect our nation's public lands and God's creation is the fruit of the many advocates' labor, including members of church communities active in Creation Justice Ministries.

Faith communities have worked diligently to support public lands and, in particular, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). After years of uncertainty about the funding status of LWCF, the legislation permanently authorizes its funding. This means local communities no longer need to anxiously ask their members of Congress every few years regarding whether or not local parks will have access to funds for their proper stewardship.

During Black History Month, it is also especially noteworthy that three of five new national monuments in the legislation honor Black heroes of the civil rights and Civil War eras. In particular, the Creation Justice community actively supported protections for the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home in Mississippi, as well as Camp Nelson in Kentucky. Given recent questionable use of the Antiquities Act by the Administration to diminish rather than augment monument protections, it is important that these two heritage sites in particular will have the durable protection of national monument status designated via Congressional legislation.

We have a moral responsibility to protect all of God's creation. The wide-spread, bi-partisan support demonstrated through this public lands package can help God's creation tremendously. Our community hopes and prays to see these important public lands protections be signed into law.

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Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptists, mainline Protestants, Historically Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Orthodox communions. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org