

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2003

Senator Conrad Burns
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
187 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Byron Dorgan
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
713 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan:

We are writing to you regarding funding for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR). This successful program recently had its funding eliminated and the President has proposed continuing with zero funding in his Fiscal Year 04 budget. We urge you to restore funding for UPARR to its historic annual average of \$25 million.

Since 1979, UPARR has helped over 400 local governments utilize the funds from over 1,400 grants to rehabilitate and improve their parks and recreational facilities. Money is given directly to the communities for use in rehabilitating facilities, as innovation grants and in smaller pools of money for planning and programming purposes. Distressed communities typically lack the quality recreational facilities targeted by UPARR. Urban park and recreational facilities often serve the most at-risk children who lack quality open space and recreational facilities. These small pockets of open space are among the safest neighborhood environments and therefore help protect our children from the harmful influences of gangs, drugs and crime.

President Bush has proposed merging UPARR into the larger Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF is an admirable program that also supports recreational projects. However, LWCF is not dedicated to distressed communities most in need of recreational facilities. The Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program benefits go beyond the \$259 million in funds directly allocated because of the required matching share. The program also helps demonstrate innovative, cost-effective ways to enhance recreation opportunities and helps create more livable and healthy communities.

Your subcommittee has generously supported the UPARR program in past years. We urge you to restore the funding for the program to help our nation's many urban communities. Thank you for your attention to this important program.

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UPARR Appropriations Request

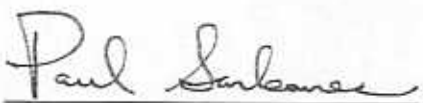
Sincerely,



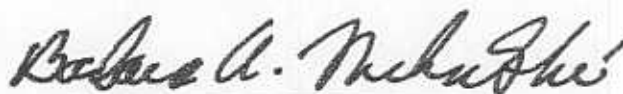
Norm Coleman



Carl Levin



Paul S. Sarbanes



Barbara A. Mikulski



Gordon Smith



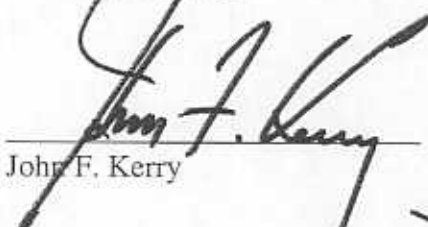
Debbie Stabenow



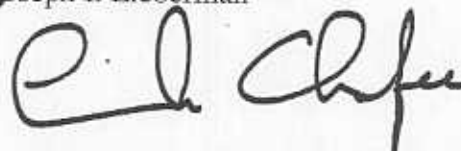
Frank Lautenberg



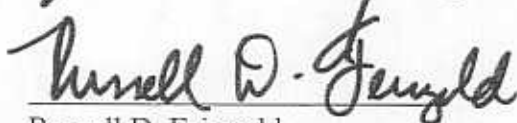
Joseph I. Lieberman



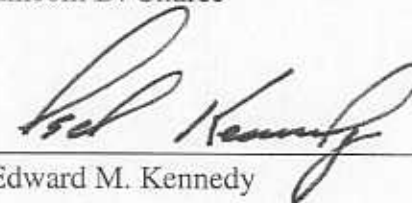
John F. Kerry



Lincoln D. Chafee



Russell D. Feingold



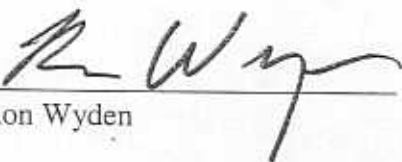
Edward M. Kennedy



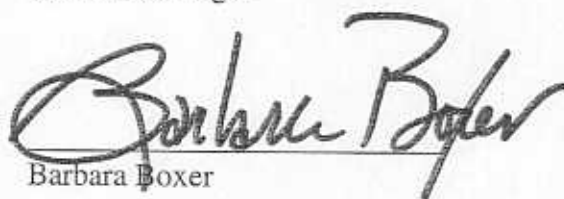
Arlen Specter

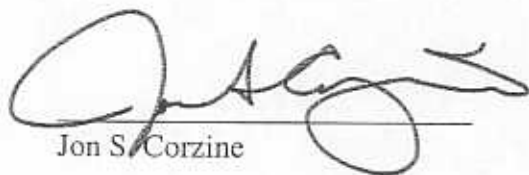


Jeff Bingaman

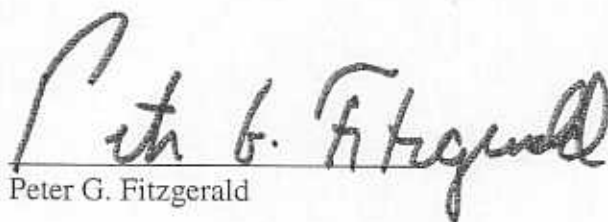

Ron Wyden

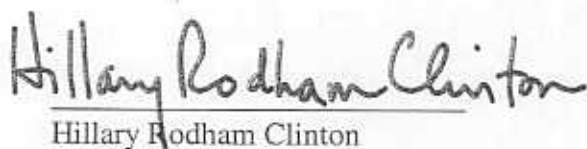

Richard G. Lugar


Barbara Boxer


Jon S. Corzine


Daniel K. Akaka

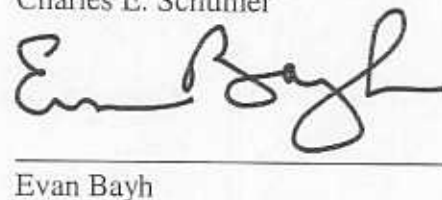

Peter G. Fitzgerald

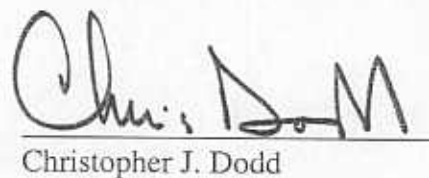

Hillary Rodham Clinton


Jack Reed


Mary L. Landrieu


Charles E. Schumer


Evan Bayh

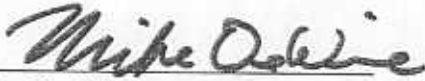

Christopher J. Dodd


Maria Cantwell


Mark Dayton

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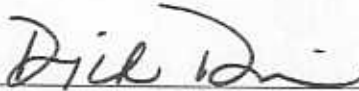
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UPARR Appropriations Request

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Blanche L. Lincoln".

Blanche L. Lincoln

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dick Durbin".

Richard J. Durbin