



Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The Keystone, Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund was signed into law in 1993 and 2018 marks 25 years since its passage. We represent local and statewide businesses working in the outdoor recreation industry as well as in planning, engineering, technology, construction and the many other private sectors that intersect with the Keystone Fund. We can attest to the lasting improvements delivered by the Keystone Fund to communities all across Pennsylvania and we proudly sign on in support of continuing these important investments for years to come.

The Keystone Fund is a significant asset for state government as it helps communities help themselves. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages \$3.13 in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces, and libraries. Since 1993, the Keystone Fund has invested \$1.02 billion in over 4,500 projects, creating real and lasting improvements that make Pennsylvania a tremendous place to live, work, and play.

The Keystone Fund has supported:

- 300+ trail projects for walking, biking, and other recreation uses
- Conservation of 161,000 acres of open space for county and municipal parks, wildlife habitat, and other open space uses
- 3,000+ community park development projects including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, and recreation centers
- Hundreds of state park and forest improvements including construction and rehabilitation of restrooms, parking lots, roads, bridges, visitors' centers, water fountains, sewage treatment, and other facilities
- 720+ historic preservation projects in 65 counties
- 365+ library projects to build new facilities, renovate older buildings, and improve accessibility and safety

The Keystone Fund has helped Pennsylvania:

- Become the 5th largest outdoor recreation economy in the nation (Outdoor Industry Association 2017). Generate \$29.1 billion in outdoor recreation consumer spending, \$8.6 billion in wages and salaries, \$1.9 billion in state and local tax revenue, and sustain 251,000 direct jobs.
- Grow our economy through local parks and recreation, spurring an additional \$1.6 billion in economic activity in 2015 alone and creating over 12,500 jobs (National Recreation & Park Association)
- Residents live healthier lives through the creation of safe, outdoor places to exercise and be active.
- Become an attractive place for businesses to grow and people to live

The Keystone Fund is made possible through a dedicated portion of the state's realty transfer tax. Every time someone buys or sells a property, a small portion of that tax is reinvested, through the Keystone Fund, in Pennsylvania's communities, making them good places to live, work, and play.

Pennsylvanians are celebrating 25 years of the Keystone Fund. The vast majority of Pennsylvanians support funding that invests in conservation, recreation, preservation and other community improvements that advance Pennsylvanians' quality of life. By signing on to this letter, we demonstrate our support for the Keystone Fund so that it can continue its lasting improvements for generations to come.

Sincerely,