INSERT DATE

 Representative/Senator

Address (find legislator information at http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/)

Dear Representative/Senator:

I am writing you today to introduce myself and share some information regarding the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. I am reaching out to you to demonstrate the tremendous impact that the Keystone Fund has made in our community and why this dedicated funding is so necessary.

[Share a short paragraph about yourself. What is your title and affiliation or your relationship with the Keystone Fund projects in your community? Keep it brief. Just 1-2 sentences.

SAMPLE: I am a long-time volunteer with the XYZ Trail group that worked to implement the ABC Trail in Blueberry Township. This trail has become a recreational landmark in our township/borough/city/region and is used by many residents in the surrounding communities.]

The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 by the state legislature in a near unanimous vote. This dedicated fund, and the complementary Environmental Stewardship Fund, have provided the core funding for conservation, [and] recreation and preservation in Pennsylvania and have built a legacy of success in every county and more than one-half of Pennsylvania’s communities. These successes include:

* 300+ trail projects for walking, bicycling, and transportation uses
* Conservation of more than 120,000 acres of open space for county and municipal parks, critical habitat protection, protection of rivers and streams, and other uses
* 3,000+ community park rehabilitation and development projects including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, picnic areas and recreation centers
* Hundreds of improvements to Pennsylvania’s award-winning State Parks and Forests including construction and rehabilitation of restrooms, parking lots, roads, bridges, visitors’ centers, sewage treatment and other facilities
* 570 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 make Pennsylvania:

* The 5th largest Outdoor Recreation economy in the Nationgenerating $29.1 Billion in consumer spending annually, $1.9 billion in state and local tax receipts and supporting 251,000 jobs. Wage and salary earnings total $8.6 billion. (Outdoor Industry Association, 2017)
* A national leader in trails development
* A national gold medal winner for the 120-state park system that totals about 300,000 acres and supports $1.2 billion in annual economic impact.
* A certified sustainable forest system totaling 2+ million acres that supports $6 billion in annual economic impacts.
* 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 more economically, socially and healthy places to live, work, and play.

In my local community, Keystone funding has been utilized for [List 2-3 projects – visit Keystone Fund.org for a list of projects or contact info@conseveland.org for assistance.] which has supported jobs, economic well being and contributed to our quality of life.

Pennsylvanians are celebrating 25 years of the Keystone Fund. It is well known that the vast majority of Pennsylvanians support funding that invests in conservation, recreation, preservation and other community improvements that advance Pennsylvanians’ quality of life. I hope that the Keystone Fund will continue to provide lasting improvements for generations to come and I look forward to sharing more with you about these investments right here in your district.

If you would like more information about the Keystone Fund and/or want to visit a project site, please email me at [INSERT EMAIL] or call [INSERT PHONE #]. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your Name

***PS: Check out KeystoneFund.org to learn more.***