

June 1, 2018

Dear Tim,

<u>President</u> Lauren Imgrund Pennsylvania

> Vice President John Beneke Arkansas

> > Secretary
> > Jan Hunt
> > Oregon

Past President Tim Hogsett Texas

<u>Executive Director</u> Doug Elken Missouri

Board of Directors

Kaleen Cottingham Washington

Steve DeBrabander Michigan

> Erica Rivers Minnesota

Linda Lanterman Kansas

Eric Feldbaum New Hampshire

Cleve Hardman Louisiana

Amy Blinson South Carolina

Sedrick Mitchell California

> Gerald Parish Tennessee

> > Sue Black Arizona

Doug Beck Maine

105H, ABNR BUILDING UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLUMBIA, MO 65211-7230 573.353.2702 P 573.882.9526 F Congratulations on your retirement from service with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) commends you for exceptional service to the organization and for growing our Nation's outdoor recreation estate. Your 39 years of service in Texas is exemplary, but we would be remiss if we did not remind all your friends, family and colleagues gathered for your retirement celebration of your personal commitment to our organization and to the State Assistance Program of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

NASORLO, the organization of state agencies that are the prime advocates for the State Assistance Program of the Land and Water Conservation, is 51 years old. We have seen our share of successes and disappointments over the lifetime of the Program. In your daily charges, you have always had an interest in seeing the LWCF Program strengthened and having it meet the outdoor needs in Texas communities and state lands, as well as nationally.

2009 was one of the low points for NASORLO and the Stateside LWCF Program, as the recession's widespread impacts effected our members, and the prognosis for the LWCF state grants was bleak. Funds were so tight that NASORLO cancelled its annual meeting due to fiscal restraints in states. As a Board member and in a subsequent conference call to conduct NASORLO business including the election of new officers, you stepped forward to serve as President, the first of two, two-year terms.

During your first term as President (2010-2011), NASORLO reorganized and made a commitment, in spite of funding challenges, to become better advocates for the LWCF state outdoor recreation grants program. Your organizational skills, steady leadership and experience with state grants were key in NASORLO's renaissance - just what was needed to reimagine and reinvigorate the organization on behalf of the people that most benefit from LWCF investments. You focused on preparing logical position statements stressing value and benefits to states and local communities. This began a re-education for NASORLO members, elected officials and other state grants advocates. We saw renewed outreach to the National Governors Association and National Recreation & Parks Association and improved partnerships with National Association of State Park Directors. As a result, LWCF stabilized and funds began to grow.

And, you were not done yet. You served a Past President, then, in 2014 when experienced leadership was needed to continue the progress of the organization and the state grants program, you agreed to an unprecedented second two-year term as President. It was in this term, that you lead us to double down on advocacy raising visibility of the LWCF Stateside funding for America's close to home parks. We are thankful Tim that you made NASORLO a priority carrying it on your shoulders as you finished a distinguished career.

On behalf of your colleagues and friends at NASORLO wish you good health and happiness in your well-deserved retirement. We extend a <u>BIG thank you</u> for the commitment you made to outdoor recreation in Texas, and, the Nation. And, we ask that you continue this journey with us, as the advocacy for LWCF marches forward.

We are honored to have served with you. And, we look forward to your continued service with us as this LWCF journey marches forward.

Sincerely,

Lauren Imgrund

President