

NEWS RELEASE

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
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## **SENATOR GREGG CALLS ON APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE LEADERS TO AGGRESSIVELY FUND KEY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined several of his Senate colleagues in calling on the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the full Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior to provide substantial funding for critical land conservation and protection programs in the upcoming fiscal year. The Conservation Trust Fund includes the following programs: the Forest Legacy Program; the Land and Water Conservation Fund; State Wildlife Grants; the Historic Preservation Fund; the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund; North American Wetlands Conservation; and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

As a long-time champion of these conservation programs, Senator Gregg has led efforts to increase funds for the Forest Legacy Program, State Wildlife Grants, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and has also secured funds for several New Hampshire projects through his role on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NH has protected 193,769 acres, more than any other state, through the Forest Legacy Program, largely due to Senator Gregg's efforts. These acres include those near Connecticut Lakes, Kimball Pond, and Melvin Valley.

In a letter to the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Gregg joined approximately 40 other Senators in stating, "As you know, Congress established the Conservation Trust Fund in FY 2001 as a result of a bipartisan effort to secure dedicated funding for critical needs of our nation's natural, cultural and recreational resources. That effort was supported by more than 5,000 park and conservation organizations, wildlife advocates, outdoor recreation and sporting goods businesses, preservation leaders, local and state elected officials, and civic groups in all fifty states.

"We are very grateful for the strong consideration that you have given to these programs in your bill. We remain concerned, however, that funding levels in the Conservation Trust Fund are declining at a time when the needs in our communities are increasingly pressing. In particular, we would especially appreciate your attention to the programs that have suffered the deepest cuts. Increases in these programs -- as long as they do not come at the expense of other Conservation Trust Fund programs -- are critical to ensuring continued commitments to states, local communities, private landowners and other non-federal partners.

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"The Conservation Trust Fund represents a promise made by Congress to both current and future generations of Americans. In the spirit of that promise, we look forward to working with you

on these important conservation programs. Thank you for your attention and consideration of our views on this matter.”

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