

## Land Trust Alliance 2020 Policy Agenda

As a national land conservation organization that represents 1,000 member land trusts supported by more than 5 million members nationwide, the Land Trust Alliance works passionately to advance federal policies and secure resources that support land trusts. Our policy agenda for 2020 reflects our member priorities and advances private land conservation.

***Farm Bill: Lead the charge on reauthorization, rulemaking and implementation.***

The Farm Bill is the single largest source of federal funding for private land conservation. It is a top priority for the Alliance. We will lead our members through the reauthorization and rulemaking processes and monitor implementation.

***Land and Water Conservation Fund: Seek full and dedicated funding.***

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is our nation's signature conservation funding source. The Alliance is committed to engaging through the LWCF Coalition to secure full and dedicated funding.

***North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Pursue reauthorization and increased funding.***

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act has helped to protect significant amounts of wetland habitat over the last 30 years. The Alliance is focused on ensuring this important program is reauthorized at appropriate funding levels.

***Tax shelters: Put an end to abusive conservation easement tax shelters.***

Abusive conservation easement tax shelters continue to cost taxpayers billions of dollars and put at risk our public goodwill and the critical federal policy and funding programs it helped us secure. The Alliance will continue to advocate in support of legislative and administrative actions to halt the abuse.

***IRS reform: Inoculate conservation donations and tax credits from harm.***

The IRS continues to focus on innocent donor documentation mistakes (often called "foot faults") that result in disqualification of truly charitable donations. The Alliance is working to safeguard these donations by pursuing legislation that reorients the IRS away from such minor mistakes. Additionally, the Alliance is actively working with Congress to exempt conservation donations from the State and Local Tax limitation.

***Energy infrastructure siting: Ensure practices and policies do not threaten land conservation.***

Siting of energy infrastructure projects increasingly is putting our community's land conservation work in jeopardy. The Alliance is coordinating with our members to educate decision makers on the importance of avoiding placing infrastructure facilities on conserved lands.

***Climate solutions: Drive funding to land trusts to protect resilient lands and advance natural climate solutions.***

The nation's land trusts can lead the way within the land sector in addressing the impacts of climate change. The Alliance will advocate for policies and funding that support the protection, restoration and stewardship of lands that increase climate resiliency, as well as policies and funding that advance natural climate solutions.

***Federal land protection programs: Expand federal programs to allow third-party holders.***

The Alliance is pursuing legislation to allow third parties to hold easements under the Forest Legacy Program if a state voluntarily chooses to use this option. Similarly, we are seeking new authority under the LWCF to grant eligible third parties the right to hold easements.

To learn more or take a more active role in our policy work, email [policy@lta.org](mailto:policy@lta.org)