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## State Approval for LWCF Acquisitions

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While the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) would further empower the federal government to acquire more land through the mandatory funding provided to the Land and Water Conservative Fund (LWCF), it ignores the interests of the states and local communities in which this land would be acquired. Often, the federal government's purchase of land requires local governments to do more with less as they are not allowed to tax land owned by the federal government. Therefore, their input should be of utmost importance. The best way to ensure locals' opinions and interests are heard is to require that the federal government only purchase land that a state has approved.

Federal ownership of land can have very negative and significant impacts on rural communities in western public land states like Utah. Without access to land, few industries can survive. Therefore, federal land ownership has forced many areas to adopt economies that are almost exclusively driven by tourism. At a time when COVID-19 has decimated the tourism economy, one can see the importance of a diversified economy, and the federal government should not be further restricting more communities of their ability to grow and support their population. Those living in areas with existing federal land or the threat of new federal land should have a say in how their hometowns operate.

### **Amendment Specifics**

- Would prohibit the federal government from making acquisitions using LWCF funds until they have received from the state, where the proposed acquisition is located, notice that the state has enacted legislation approving it.