



**RESOLUTION 2016-09  
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5758  
THE ADVANCING CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT**

**Whereas**, the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") and its member states manage over 440 million acres of trust lands and minerals that are interspersed with federal lands; and

**Whereas**, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

**Whereas**, the ability of member states to fulfill their constitutional mandates is severely hindered when trust lands are surrounded by federal conservation areas; and

**Whereas**, land exchanges between states and the federal government are very expensive and time consuming; and

**Whereas**, the need for additional legislative means for resolving problems created by the location of state trust lands inholdings inside federal conservation areas remains pressing for WSLCA member states; and

**Whereas**, WSLCA and its member states have worked for several years to develop the proposed federal legislation introduced by Congressman Chaffetz through consultation and discussions with conservation groups, Congress, the Department of Interior and other governmental entities, and the public; and

**Whereas**, prior draft proposals for such proposed legislation have been refined to take into account concerns and comments expressed by such groups; and

**Whereas**, Congressman Chaffetz of Utah has introduced H.R. 5758, the Advancing Conservation and Education Act of 2016 (ACE) that is supported on a bi-partisan basis among affected states and in Congress; and

**Whereas**, H.R. 5758 would create a streamlined and economical mechanism for the relinquishment to the United States of title to state trust lands located within federal conservation areas and the subsequent selection of unappropriated federal public lands as a means of eliminating conflicts between state and federal land management within federal

conservation areas; and

**Whereas**, H.R. 5758 would insure that conservation mandates of federal land management agencies do not conflict with the economic development mandates of State trust land managers; and

**Whereas**, H.R. 5758 would permit a streamlined process for the completion of federal conservation areas and would uphold the promise of land grants to states to support public education and other state functions.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the WSLCA does hereby support and endorse the passage of H.R. 5758, The Advancing Conservation and Education Act of 2016, as presented to the membership of WSLCA, and requests that the members of the congressional delegations of each WSLCA state take all necessary actions to ensure the timely enactment of the proposed legislation into federal law.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, President  
Western States Land Commissioners  
Association

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
Western States Land Commissioners  
Association