



## RESOLUTION 2017-10

### EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE ADVANCING CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

**Whereas**, the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways that are interspersed with federal lands; and

**Whereas**, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for public education, economic development, 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 that are trapped 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 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 consider concerns and comments expressed by such groups; and

**Whereas**, Congress has conducted legislative hearings on the Advancing Conservation and Education Act of 2016 (ACE) and received supportive testimony from the Department of Interior, State Land Commissioners, and conservation advocates demonstrating broad bi-partisan support; and