Dear Editor:

Summer is here and I – along with tens of thousands of other Americans – am ready to get back on the water. Paddlers across the country are excited to enjoy their favorite pastime and businesses are banking on paddle sports to make a living.

Ensuring access to the water is one of the most basic problems paddlers face but also one of the most complicated. Our most important tool to expand access is the Land and Water Conservation Fund – a program that uses offshore oil and gas royalties to conserve land and expand access to the outdoors. The U.S. Senate took a huge step forward recently by permanently authorizing this vital program. 85 Senators voted for this legislation – including Senators Booker and Menendez - and they were joined by conservative Republican Senators from across the country.

Instead of following their bipartisan lead, the House is taking an extremely partisan approach. Congressman Rob Bishop from Utah, instead of working to pass legislation supported by more than 200 of his colleagues, is pushing an extremely partisan bill that will do nothing to support this vital program.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund works for paddlers. It works for New Jersey. It works for our outdoor recreation suppliers and helps supports tens of thousands of jobs across the country. Instead of playing political games, the New Jersey delegation needs to stand up to Congressman Bishop and support this program which works for New Jersey.

That is after all why they are in Washington – to fight for New Jersey. The Senate took a step forward on ensuring we have access to places such as Cape May and Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and now it is time for the House to step up and do its job.

Sincerely,

Louis F. Metzger
Public Policy Chief
ACA | Canoe-Kayak-SUP-Raft-Rescue