“CDTC is proud to celebrate Latino Conservation Week and to support efforts to lift up all voices that love our national’s Parks, Forests, Waters and Trails,” **said Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition.** “CDTC The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) connects across cultures, communities and landscapes, many of which are connected to Latino and Hispanic Communities, Stories, and Histories. CDTC is proud to partner with organizations all across the CDT to celebrate Latino Conservation Week and continue to show case the contributions of the Latino and Hispanic Community in stewardship, conservation, advocacy of our Nation's special places and are thrilled to support this resolution by Congresswoman Barragán to commemorate Latino Conservation Week!”

“Healthy Ocean Coalition is proud to support this resolution, which shines an invaluable spotlight on the significant contributions Latinos make - and have been making for centuries - to conservation and stewardship of our natural spaces,” **said Jenna Valente, Director of Advocacy at Healthy Ocean Coalition.** “This special week provides an platform for individuals to showcase their passion for the outdoors, their commitment to its protection, and learn from each other all while building relationships.”

“Protecting our land is protecting humanity.” **said Pastor Felipe J Villegas of Nuevo Empezar Church Of God.**

"The Hispanic Community Church of Boston endorses the designation of the third week of July as Latino Conservation Week. We believe that it is important to engage the Latino community in conservation efforts, and that this week provides a great opportunity to do so. We encourage our members and the wider Latino community to get involved in activities that promote conservation and to learn more about the importance of protecting our natural resources**,” said Pastor Cesar Depaz of Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad**. “The natural world is a gift from God, and we are called to be good stewards of it. This means using our resources wisely and sustainably and protecting the environment for future generations. It also means finding ways to connect with nature and to experience its beauty and wonder. When we do these things, we are not only taking care of God's creation, but we are also deepening our own faith."

"Conservation needs all the voices, from all the perspectives, representing all the citizens of our diverse nation,” **said Erik Molvar, Executive Director with Western Watersheds Project.** “We appreciate the efforts of Green Latinos and other Latinx voices in advancing protections for the natural world and restoration of healthy native ecosystems."

“I am enthusiastic to support the Latino Conservation Movement as the Latine community has been historically left out of the environmental movement, our peoples have always been wonderful stewards of our natural relatives,” **said Josefina Barrantes, 30x30 Coordinator, EPIC.** “This is an opportunity to honor the ways that we care for our environment and encourage more opportunities for recreational activities to be enjoyed by all.”

“Los Padres ForestWatch annually celebrates Latino Conservation Week,” **said Carla Mena, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Los Padres ForestWatch.** “By hosting a variety of activities such as, camping, hiking, kayaking, and park clean-ups while educating on the Los Padres National Forest ecosystem and the importance of protecting public lands.”

“In creating Latino Conservation Week in 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation began a celebration that has grown each and every year to become more reflective of the ethic of stewardship and conservation that is deeply rooted in nuestras comunidades Latinas.” **said Luis Villa, Executive Director of Latino Outdoors.** “With the 10th annual edition of Latino Conservation Week upon us, Latino Outdoors wants to say mil gracias to our longtime, cherished friends at Hispanic Access Foundation for spotlighting and celebrating Latine love for the outdoors and to Representative Nanette Barragán for amplifying that love through this congressional resolution.”

“Ensuring the preservation of our open spaces and natural wonders is not only about preserving our heritage, but these places provide a crucial service to Veterans upon their return from war,” **said Janessa Goldbeck, CEO of Vet Voices Foundation.** “After the mental and physical stressors of combat, many Veterans "walk off the war" and depend on the quiet and solitude that our public lands provide. We owe it to future generations of warriors to preserve and protect these lands so they will be there, always.”

“Nature for All works to increase access to nature, protect public lands and inspire the next diverse environmental leaders and workforce!” **said Belen Bernal, Executive Director of Nature for All.** “We work closely with the Latino community throughout Los Angeles County and we know that Latinos are natural stewards who care about public land protection, as well as their local parks and open spaces. We look forward to sharing some time in community this year!”

“We join the steps of migrants to the conservation efforts of a world that belongs to all, and in which we can live in harmony under God's creation,” **said Pilar Castrillo, Director-CEO, Migrant Journey DBA of Bapcas Corp.**

The Latino community and people of color have been inextricably woven into California’s past and present natural resource management, and the role of these community members in statewide conservation will only bloom with future generations,” **said Reyn Akiona, Executive Director of Valley Eco.** “It is critical that we foster engagement and participation in the communities where the effects of water, land, and air management decisions are most felt, and this resolution a small but sincere nod to the critical nexus between our communities and the resources that we depend on.

“Latino Conservation Week is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the communities and activists working to create a more inclusive and equitable environmental movement,” **said Roberto Morales, Acting Associate Director of the Sierra Club Outdoors for All Campaign.** “Latino and Latina activists have been working to build sustainable futures for communities, landscapes, and wildlife as long as there has been an environmental movement, and many Latino communities are among those most affected by the negative effects of the climate crisis. Our movement can only succeed if all communities are a part of it, and it is extremely important that we continue to work with and elevate Latino communities and voices in this critical work to secure a thriving future for our planet.”

“Latino Conservation Week is one of many ways in which SUWA is connecting Latinos with Utah's incredible federal public lands,” **said Diana Haro, SUWA Latino Community Organizer.** “Getting to know, care for, and advocate for the protection of wild places is critical and an important way for us to assert ourselves in our communities. SUWA is proud to celebrate Latino Conservation Week!"

“We strongly urge the swift passage of this resolution to acknowledge and celebrate the profound contributions of Latinos to environmental stewardship and defending our Madre Tierra,” **said** **Felipe Benitez, Executive Director of Corazón Latino. “**By recognizing these contributions, we honor the invaluable role of Latinos in shaping a sustainable future and affirm the need for inclusive and equitable environmental policies. This resolution provides an opportunity for our government to demonstrate its commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and environmental justice. Let us prioritize its passage, ensuring that the vital contributions of Latinos are integrated into our national environmental agenda. Together, we can foster a more comprehensive and effective approach to environmental conservation.”

“American Rivers enthusiastically supports Latino Conservation Week and our partners at Hispanic Access Foundation,” **said Tom Kiernan CEO of American Rivers.** “Community leadership and solutions are essential to creating the positive change we need for rivers. We proudly support Latino Conservation Week’s mission; to provide an opportunity for the Latino community to show their support for permanently protecting land, water, and air. We are pleased to support this event and House Bill XYZ which would officially designate the third week of July as Latino Conservation Week.”

“Not only are Latinx/e communities among those at the forefronts of conservation advocacy, we are also often disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, climate change, and lack of access to clean, safe, and joyful outdoor spaces,” **said Laura Rodriguez, Chief Program Officer of Justice Outside.** “Designating a Latino Conservation Week will recognize the efforts of the Latinx/e community, rejuvenate activism and advocacy in our communities, and allow us the space to come together and coordinate for change.”

“Our Latino Family has a beautiful ancestral connection to the earth and a rich legacy of remarkable environmental stewardship,” **said LaTricea D. Adams, Founder, CEO & President of Black Millennials 4 Flint.** “On behalf of Black Millennials 4 Flint, we give resounding support for Latino Conservation Week 2023!

“We know for a fact that Latino people contribute a great deal to land conservation in Coachella Valley,” **said Tammy Martin, Executive Director of Friends of the Desert Mountains.** “Half our staff is Latinos who grew up here, and work hard to help others -especially youth - connect to the land.”

“We are so excited to host three events for Latino Conservation Week this year. The Latino community plays a huge role in local conservation efforts. Getting outside and partnering to preserve and restore our natural spaces has been an incredible way to bring communities together and learn from each other. These events offer space to connect and grow while enjoying the beauty of the outdoors,” **said Karina Ornelas, Conservation Outreach Coordinator of the San Diego Audubon Society.** “This is our fourth year hosting Latino Conservation Week events. Each year we look for new ways to make the outdoors more accessible, show that everyone is welcome and invited, and open doors to ongoing partnerships. We have seen an increase in participation each year, and it makes our hearts full to see everyone in the community coming together to preserve the places we love.”

“Conservation is deeply intertwined with addressing the climate crisis and as it worsens, Latinos are often at the frontlines of catastrophe despite leading the way for inclusive conservation,” **said Andrew Escamilla, Central Valley Regional Coordinator of California Environmental Voters.** “I’m proud to lead California Environmental Voters’ 30x30 conservation efforts to foster equity and address historic environmental injustice,” said Andrew Escamilla, Regional Coordinator for the Central Valley, California Environmental Voters. “We are inspired by Representative Barragan’s movement to officially designate Latino Conservation Week. This is a crucial celebration that highlights the vital role Latinos play in preserving our planet and fostering environmental stewardship.”

“It is very important to reconnect our Latino communities with Mother Earth (Tonantzin/Pachamama) with our roots,” **said José S. Sánchez Greenfield of the Community Science Workshop.** “With the water that flows. With the air that runs free. With our essence. With our cultures. With the Spirituality with which we grew up in our villages. Thanks to the Latin conservation week we can create that connection.”

"While Latino Conservation Week began as the effort of the Hispanic Access Foundation and its allies a decade ago, it's evolved into a celebrated week of Latinx community pride in our outdoors across urban or rural settings near and far,” **said Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Founder and Executive Director of Azul.** “In our work to elevate our communities, we say — cheers to 10 years and those to come."

“KABOOM! is proud to support Rep. Barragan’s resolution to designate the third of week of July ‘Latino Conservation Week.’ KABOOM!’s mission of ending playspace inequity recognizes that Latino children who have easy, equitable access to outdoor recreational spaces are more likely to explore parks and trails as older kids and adults.” **said Lysa Ratliff, CEO of KABOOM!** “That’s why it’s critical that every child has the ability to begin forming these outdoor play habits in a safe, high-quality playground at the earliest age possible. When every child has access to a great outdoor playspace, everyone in the community benefits. And we are happy to continue supporting any effort that encourages more Latino children and families to get outside for joyful play and nature exploration.”

“Latinx families and individuals have been caring and connected to lands and waters for generations, beyond borders. Conservation is not a hobby or profession for many in our Latinx communities, but a way of life,” **said Yvette Lopez-Ledesma, Deputy VP of Community-led Conservation at The Wilderness Society. “**Recognition of Latinx Conservation Week by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives provides opportunities for people everywhere to learn about and appreciate Latinx peoples and our connections to land and waters. As importantly it’s an opportunity to celebrate in community while protecting the places that bring us life.”

“As extreme heat days become more frequent and intense, there will be more time when outdoor work and recreation is unsafe,” **said Carolina Peña-Alarcón, Program Manager at EcoMadres.** “It is critically important we take action to tackle the disproportionate challenges air pollution and climate change impose on Latino communities, especially as our communities are disproportionately represented in the outdoor workforce. EcoMadres is proud to support Congresswoman Barragán’s resolution to designate the third week of July as Latino Conservation Week to demonstrate our commitment in reducing pollution in communities most impacted, and in working towards equitable protections to safely work and enjoy time in Mother Nature for generations to come.”

“As we celebrate Latino Conservation Week, we must highlight how important the Latino community is in our efforts to conserve our National Wildlife Refuge System,” **said Geoffrey L. Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.** “With the Latino community making up almost 20% of the US population, we must invest in equitable and inclusive programs that increase access to wildlife refuges while providing a multitude of benefits to communities that have long been excluded. Uplifting these voices is vital to ensuring the future of our nation’s wildlife refuge system and other public lands and waters.”

“As a pro-housing organization, we know the creating dense infill housing is critical for preserving and conserving greenspace” **said Alex Melendrez, National Chapter Manager of YIMBY Action.** “There's a strong connection between housing accessibility, historical exclusion to the outdoors and preservation of open spaces for recreation, that must be highlighted. Latino Conversation Week encouraged us to participate in this discussion, as such we support a congressional resolution to designate the third week of July as Latino Conservation Week.”

"Over the last ten years, Latino Conservation Week has built on the long legacy of Latinos as conservationists and environmental advocates,” **said Chela Garcia Irlando, Executive Director, Next 100 Coalition.** “LCW's continued success and engagement with people and communities will only strengthen our connection and stewardship to nature for generations to come."