

Kathy DeCoster, Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs, The Trust for Public Land

Ms. DeCoster began her tenure at The Trust for Public Land in 1994 as a senior legislative representative and was named Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs in 2009. In her current position, Ms. DeCoster directs TPL's federal policy, program and funding work and represents the organization with the Administration, Congress and NGOs. Throughout her years of service she has worked with Congress and federal agencies to secure funding for specific local, state and federal land conservation projects across the nation as well as advocated for the development and funding of new and existing federal conservation programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy Program, Community Forest Program and the Farmland Protection Program.

Prior to joining TPL, Ms. DeCoster served as a legislative assistant on environmental issues for Sen. William S. Cohen (R-ME) from 1983 to 1994, and before that as a legislative assistant to Rep. David F. Emery (R-ME-1) from 1980 to 1983, focusing on his Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee work.

Ms. DeCoster received an M.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia and graduated from Kenyon College (Ohio) with a BA in History.