

Connor Hoy

Internship: The Land Trust Alliance- Washington, DC

9/25/14

### The Land Trust Alliance Internship

After graduation, Sewanee's internship program sponsored my unpaid internship at the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) in Washington, DC. I joined LTA's government affairs team, where I lobbied for HR 2807: The Conservation Easement Incentive Act. This legislation incentivized low to middle income farmers to place conservation easements on their land, rather than selling it to development. Under similar legislation, nearly 1 million acres of land was protected every year. However, due to government spending cuts, this previous legislation was suspended.

My experience at LTA was unlike any internship I had experienced while at Sewanee. I worked directly with the organization's top lobbyists and met with Congress to push for HR: 2807. I formed strong connections with Congressional Staff, fellow lobbyists, and countless other conservationists. The biggest take away from this experience was the importance of forming connections with people. I watched in amazement as my supervisors remembered minute details about the Congressmen's life. Often these details, like remembering the name of the Congressman's childhood neighbor who had to sell the families' farm, would help gain their support.

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The expertise of my supervisors and the background research I provided them allowed us to gain enough support in the House to pass HR 2807. It was an unbelievable experience being part of a team that accomplished passing legislation out of a deeply divided House. This experience solidified my desire to stay in Washington and chase the dream of working in government affairs. I recently accepted a position at the Advisory Board Company, a healthcare consulting firm, where I am gaining knowledge of the healthcare system. I am hoping that this position will situate me for a career working on legislation for our healthcare system.