



May 17, 2018

The Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable **supports and applauds two Secretarial Orders you have signed, # 3365 and #3366.** We are pleased to comment on key specific provisions of these documents and commit our full support to implementing both.

The first Secretarial Order (SO) creates the position of Senior National Advisor to the Secretary for Recreation. We applaud this recognition of outdoor recreation as a departmental priority. We note this is the first time in nearly 40 years that the term **recreation** has been used in the title of one of the Department's senior officials or offices – not since the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (successor to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation) was combined with the National Park Service under President Reagan.

We applaud that SO 3365 provides clear and broad duties and authorities for the new Senior National Advisor, both internally and externally. The roles include serving as an advisor to the Department's senior executives including the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Chief of Staff on recreation policy and prioritize both this guidance and Departmental efforts to develop and act on this counsel. The SO emphasizes expansion of recreational opportunities and reduction of regulatory burdens. This is vital. By many measures, recreational opportunities on Interior lands and waters have been static or in decline for some time – despite a surge in the nation's population and new demands resulting from changes in recreational equipment, technologies and lifestyles. The nation suffers from the Department's lack of responsiveness – in terms of fewer jobs, decreased mental and physical well-being and of reduced support for sound stewardship of our public resources.

We intend to provide the Senior National Advisor for Recreation with examples of regulatory burdens encumbering recreational activities, examples of strategies which can expand recreation in quality and quantity utilizing revenues generated by those enjoying the experiences and proposals for sustainable partnerships in the recreation arena. Open forums can assist your Department in gathering and refining ideas and building strategies, and we suggest a monthly "open house" hosted by the Senior National Advisor and attended by a selection of other Department officials working with him as an effective communications opportunity.

As you have noted, the Department has multiple boards, councils and committees involving internal and external representatives and interacting with recreation matters. We urge that the Senior National Advisor receive reports on the meetings of these

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bodies and all relevant recommendations, and then share this information with the newly-created Made in America Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee for its review and integration into its work. For example, recent recommendations of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council could gain the endorsement of and further thinking by the new advisory committee.

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable applauds your May 2 communication with the nation's Governors, seeking official liaisons for coordination with the work of Interior's Senior National Advisor on Recreation. Interior is the steward of a great American legacy – more than 25% of our nation's surface lands and waters, including important places in each state. Interior also provides federal assistance to state programs aiding fishing and boating, hunting and shooting sports, state and local parks and recreation sites and more – assistance exceeding a billion dollars annually at the national level. We believe that the contributions of outdoor recreation can be maximized and sustained through partnerships and coordination of parks, wildlife, economic development, wellness and tourism policies. Interior should lead this coordination.

We further endorse and will support SO 3366 efforts to ensure that Interior's public lands and waters are open and accessible for recreational pursuits by all Americans and visitors to the USA. The SO directs bureaus: to create plans to develop new, or increase and expand existing, recreational opportunities; to provide recommendations for improving and streamlining relevant permitting requirements for guides and outfitters and facilitated outdoor recreation providers; and to improve the contracting processes for recreation-specific concessioners. To coordinate these efforts, you have directed that the heads of bureaus designate one full-time employee to oversee recreational activities and to work with the National Senior Advisor. We urge that these individuals be both knowledgeable and experienced and, together, constitute a new "virtual office" for the National Senior Advisor.

The SO establishes a 90-day deadline for reports – or approximately July 17, 2018. We think this date offers an important focus for the new Made in America Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. It could meet shortly thereafter to assist in the review of the reports and then offer the Secretary recommendations for actions.

In conclusion, we find the SOs timely, substantive and exciting. The new policy guidance supports coordination and cooperation with all segments of the outdoor recreation industry – including large and small businesses operating on Interior lands and waters under various permits, concessions agreements and other instruments, with states and local governments, with tribal and territorial interests and strong intra-departmental collaboration, paralleling current efforts on reorganization.

To recap our suggestions and key recommendations, we suggest:

- 1) That the new National Senior Policy Advisor for Recreation ***begin monthly "open houses" at Interior for discussions on key outdoor recreation topics;***

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- 2) That the new ***Made in America Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee begin its work this summer with a review of the reports required by SO 3366*** and development of recommendations to you on appropriate actions;
- 3) That the ***same new advisory committee regularly gather and review the recreation-related recommendations and reports of other Interior boards, committees and councils*** in cooperation with the National Senior Advisor for Recreation;
- 4) That the National Senior Advisor plan a ***national coordination meeting for state and key private sector partners of the Department***, as announced in your May 2 letter to Governors; and
- 5) That the ***National Senior Advisor for Recreation expedite Department efforts to reduce the burdens facing recreation on Interior lands and waters, including those faced by outfitters, guides, facilitated outdoor recreation providers and concessioners.***

We extend our sincere appreciation for your actions on Secretarial Orders 3365 and 3366. And we commit ourselves to active work with you to accomplish the nationally significant goals the Orders establish.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association

Archery Trade Association

ARVC - National Association of RV
Parks & Campgrounds

Association of Marina Industries

BoatU.S.

International Snowmobile
Manufacturers Association

Marine Retailers Association of the
Americas

Motorcycle Industry Council

National Marine Manufacturers
Association

National Park Hospitality Association

Off-Road Business Association

PeopleForBikes Coalition

Recreation Vehicle Dealers
Association

RV Industry Association

Snowsports Industries America

Specialty Equipment Market
Association

Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle
Association

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

