



January 25, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The federal shutdown is posing serious problems for outdoor recreation -- an industry that accounts for 2.2% of the nation's economy, \$734 billion in Gross Output, \$887 billion in consumer spending and supports 4.6 million American jobs. Rural and gateway communities across the country are being severely impacted. These communities rely on visits to national parks, forests, and other federally managed lands and waters -- and the spending they bring -- to thrive. Cancelled visits to federal recreation sites are causing public and private sector losses, which will not be restored.

State and local governments, private partners, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and more have stepped up to provide assistance during the shutdown, but they can only do so much. The outdoor recreation community is calling for a swift resolution to this crisis so that visitors to our nation's treasured places can continue to enjoy world-class experiences in world-class places.

Attached to this letter is a policy statement from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, the nation's premier coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations. This document details the consequences the outdoor recreation industry and federal lands and waters face because of the shutdown, offers solutions to these problems, and proposes new policy ideas that will help our nation's great outdoors be insulated from the harmful effects of future shutdowns. We look forward to working with Congress on these issues. Together, we can make sure the great outdoors are exempt from harm over issues not related to the great outdoors.

Sincerely:

Thom Dammrich
Chair

Frank Hugelmeyer
Vice Chair

Attachment: ORR Policy Statement on Federal Recreation Sites and Programs During Federal Shutdowns