



January 24, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
1026 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
2354 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
1203 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Serrano, and Ranking Member Aderholt:

The undersigned organizations representing the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), a coalition of leading U.S. outdoor recreation trade associations, are writing in strong support of increased funding for the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) within the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) at the Department of Commerce. We are very pleased with the FY19 Senate Commerce, Justice and Science inclusion of \$1.5 million for BEA to continue its publication of ORSA annual reports and develop corresponding state and regional data on the economic impact of outdoor recreation. We respectfully ask that you support the Senate funding into the final conference legislation.

On September 20, 2018, BEA published the final ORSA report that illustrates the large economic impact of outdoor recreation. This report calculated that the outdoor recreation industry had a U.S. GDP contribution of 2.2 percent and annual gross economic output of \$734 billion in 2016 (the last available year of data.) This economic contribution level is greater than other key economic sectors, including the mining, utilities and chemical products manufacturing industries. In addition, with 4.5 million jobs, the outdoor recreation sector generates similar employment as other major job creators in the United States, including hospitals, transportation and warehousing, and educational services.

ORSA measures the size of the outdoor recreation economy and the link between outdoor recreation and the broader United States economy. Like other satellite accounts, ORSA was built on BEA's comprehensive supply-use framework. The supply-use tables provide a detailed look at the relationships among industries and how each industry contributes to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ORR members represent thousands of U.S. businesses that produce vehicles, equipment, gear, apparel, and services for the millions of Americans who enjoy our nation's parks, waterways, trails and outdoor spaces. The ORSA data is key to quantifying the economic impact of the outdoor industry, and we urge the Committee to include \$1.5 million in funding for ORSA in the final FY19 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Horse Council
American Sportfishing Association
BoatUS
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Association of Marina Industries
Archery Trade Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council



Specialty Equipment Market Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Industry Association

Specialty Vehicle Industry Association
Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association