



January 28, 2019

General Government - Appropriations Subcommittee
Montana State Legislature
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the General Government -- Appropriations Subcommittee:

The members of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations, and our partners in Montana express their full support for Montana's Office of Outdoor Recreation. This office is extremely important to ensuring that access to and development of Montana's world-class outdoor experiences remain an integral part of the state's job growth, tourism, economic well-being and quality of life.

Outdoor recreation is an essential part of our country's economy. According to a 2018 report by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the outdoor recreation economy accounts for 2.2% of the United States Gross Domestic Product, is growing faster than the economy as a whole and supports 4.6 million jobs. In Montana alone, outdoor recreation is responsible for \$7.1 billion in consumer spending and 71,000 jobs. Many of these jobs are in rural areas that rely on Montana's accessible outdoor infrastructure and healthy wildlife habitats. Montana's public lands and waters are surely one of the state's greatest assets for recruitment, retention and a unique quality of life.

Montana's Office of Outdoor Recreation plays a critical role in building a unified strategic approach to maintaining this vital aspect of the state's economy and growing business and recreation opportunities in the state. The office also focuses on helping rural communities gain access to resources to fully realize the benefits of the outdoor recreation economy, as well as protect Montana's great outdoors for future generations.

Your state is one of ten across the country -- many of them neighboring Western states -- that have made commitments to grow the outdoor recreation economy and attract businesses by creating State Offices of Outdoor Recreation. ORR and its broad membership are ready to partner with your legislature, Montana and its Office of Outdoor Recreation to grow the outdoor recreation economy and contribute to the well-being of your communities and residents.

Sincerely:

America Outdoors
American Horse Council
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Boat Owners Association of the United States
The Corps Network
International Snowmobile Manufacturers
Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds

National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
PeopleForBikes
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America