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