



October 28, 2019

Representative Nydia Velázquez
Chairwoman, House Committee on Small Business
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Steve Chabot
Ranking Member, House Committee on Small Business
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Velazquez, Ranking Member Chabot and Members of the Committee:

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations comprised of 29 members serving more than 100,000 businesses. The outdoor business community thanks you for your upcoming hearing, *"Force of Nature: The Power of Small Businesses in America's Recreational Infrastructure,"* and your attention to this important sector of the economy.

Outdoor recreation is a major economic force in America growing faster than the economy as a whole, accounting for 2.2 percent of GDP, supporting 5.2 million jobs and contributing \$778 billion in economic output, surpassing other sectors such as utilities, mining, agriculture and chemical products manufacturing.

The opportunities facing our industry are unique. Outdoor recreation is made up of hundreds of thousands of businesses, many of them small and in rural communities. These businesses, and the public lands and waters they rely on, are often the economic drivers of their areas, creating jobs, encouraging tourism, and bringing revenue into state and local governments. The opportunity exists for this growing sector to continue to expand its positive effects, revitalizing Main Streets across the country through healthy, sustainable outdoor activities and providing new avenues for first-time entrepreneurs.

However, with unique opportunities come unique challenges. Growing workforce needs, outdated infrastructure and approximately \$20 billion of backlogged maintenance on public lands and waters jeopardize outdoor recreation access, enjoyment and safety, all of which are crucial to the growth of local economies.

Once again, we thank you for your attention to this vital economic sector. ORR looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure all Americans have access to recreation experiences on their public lands and waters and that all communities benefit from the growing recreation economy.

Sincerely,

America Outdoors
American Horse Council
American Mountain Guides Association



American Sportfishing Association
American Trails
Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of the United States
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Hospitality Association
PeopleForBikes
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
The Corps Network