



Senate Committee on Natural Resources
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Members of the Committee:

The [Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#) (ORR) – the nation’s leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations comprised of 29 national association members serving more than 100,000 American businesses – supports the creation of an Office of Outdoor Recreation in Indiana to help grow a vibrant industry that already accounts for 2.2% of the American economy, supports 5.2 million jobs and is growing faster than the economy as a whole. We ask that you approve Senate Concurrent Resolution 15, which will establish such an office, in the Natural Resources Committee hearing on January 27, 2020.

Outdoor recreation is a prominent force in Indiana, supporting 108,000 jobs and contributing \$9.7 billion to the state’s economy, much of which is in rural communities. Many facets of state government already support and promote Indiana’s recreation opportunities, but an Office of Outdoor Recreation would coordinate these efforts and ensure efficiency among the administration, legislators, and groups and companies that work in the outdoor space.

Seventeen other states have created Offices of Outdoor Recreation to implement strategic plans that grow outdoor recreation through policies, programs and initiatives. Indiana’s creation of such an office would represent a sincere commitment to leverage existing resources to diversify and grow the state’s economy, increase rural prosperity, build healthy communities, develop a next-generation workforce and promote conservation and stewardship and sustainable recreation infrastructure.

Resources are available to help launch these new offices. The National Governors Association’s new Outdoor Recreation Learning Network – of which ORR is a founding sponsor – exists to help states create their own Offices of Outdoor Recreation by providing a peer-to-peer network of best practices regarding model legislation, structure and more.

Outdoor recreation is an economic multiplier. It helps attract new business, recruit and retain employees and improve urban and rural quality of life. Creating an Indiana Office of Outdoor Recreation would focus efforts already underway across multiple agencies, drive Indiana’s economy forward and provide a go-to place for recreation businesses interested in moving to or starting in the state.

ORR stands ready to help grow this essential part of the economy and contribute to the well-being of your residents and visitors alike. The recreation community appreciates your attention to, and support of, this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Mountain Guides Association
American Sportfishing Association
American Trails
Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of The United States
CHM Government Services
The Corps Network
Diving Equipment & Marketing Association
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
Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Speed Equipment Manufacturing Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association

CC:

Senator Linda Rogers