

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As members of the outdoor recreation community we write to encourage your consideration for addressing longstanding recreation-related infrastructure needs in major surface transportation legislation due for reauthorization this year.

As the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee moves forward this month with reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the undersigned organizations request the Committee's consideration for ensuring infrastructure legislation includes a comprehensive Recreation Title. Reauthorization of major infrastructure packages represents an extraordinary bipartisan opportunity to not only rebuild our crumbling roads, bridges and airports, but also to advance signature green and blue recreation infrastructure policy to advance federal road systems, greenways, campgrounds, trails, marinas, and bike access that interconnect our communities, improve safety, enhance quality of life and drive forward recreation economies for rural and urban areas alike.

The benefits of investing in recreation infrastructure are clear and compelling. Outdoor recreation is a major economic engine in America, growing faster than the economy as a whole, accounting for 2.2 percent of GDP, supporting 5.2 million jobs – many of which are in rural communities – and contributing \$778 billion in economic output, surpassing other sectors such as utilities, mining, agriculture and chemical products manufacturing. Outdoor recreation is an economic multiplier. It helps attract new businesses, recruit and retain employees, and improve quality of life by supporting rural economies, connecting urban populations with our natural treasures and helping people build healthy lives.

Sadly, many of the roads, trails, marinas, campgrounds and other recreation infrastructure our industry depends on are worn out or desperately in need of maintenance and modernization. Simply put, we have Eisenhower-era recreation infrastructure at a time when visitors depend on safe roads and trails, clean and navigable public waters, and 21st century amenities. The outdoor

recreation community supports improving the green and blue infrastructure on National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other federally-managed lands and waters to support recreation infrastructure for rural communities across the country but also to ensure urban communities are able to access the great outdoors.

It's a fact that our economy relies on much more than just roads and bridges – the infrastructure that powers outdoor recreation serves as a pillar for the broader economy. As Congress tackles our nation's infrastructure challenges, outdoor recreation needs to be at the table. The outdoor recreation community is working to provide contemporary and thoughtful solutions that will improve the health and vibrancy of communities and economies across the country. These concepts range from recognizing recreation as an economic benefit in project prioritization and utilizing recreation fee revenue as a funding source for investment in recreational assets and services, to reauthorization of key conservation programs and addressing trail and campground modernization and expansion needs across America's beloved federal lands and waters.

We look forward to working with you on opportunities to invest in projects and programs that will improve recreation infrastructure, economic productivity and quality of life across our nation. We encourage you to consider including a Recreation Title in reauthorization of FAST and WRDA to ensure the outdoor economy continues to grow and all Americans have access to safe public lands and waters and healthy outdoor recreation experiences for generations to come.

Sincerely,

American Horse Council
American Sportfishing Association
American Trails
Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of the United States
CHM Government Services
Diving Equipment & Marketing Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Hospitality Association
PeopleForBikes
REI Co-op
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
The Corps Network

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership