



July 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1236 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
 Minority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 2468 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The outdoor recreation industry is encouraged by the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in the Senate and urges clean passage of this landmark legislation through the House as soon as possible. As outdoor recreation business leaders, we know investments in recreation access and infrastructure are vital to the outdoor recreation industry and economies across the country.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the outdoor recreation industry contributed \$778 billion in economic output, accounted for 2.2 percent of United States Gross Domestic Product, supported 5.2 million jobs and was growing faster than the economy as a whole in every indicator. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns necessary to slow its progression, America's outdoor recreation economy was hindered when we needed the outdoors more than ever. Outdoor Recreation Roundtable's May survey of the sector shows that 88 percent of outdoor businesses have had to lay off or furlough employees, and 94 percent are seeing decreased revenue. However, we know there is a bright future for outdoor recreation ahead, as several sectors of the industry are already experiencing rapidly increasing demand.

These outdoor businesses are the backbone of our industry and range from specialty retailers, apparel, gear and vehicle manufacturers, outfitters and guides to campground and marina operators. They are often foundational to a community's economy. With rising unemployment

and Americans eager to experience the outdoors, investment in our industry's core infrastructure – public lands and waters – will allow our businesses to get back to what we do best: stimulate local economies, put people back to work, and allow Americans to benefit from time spent outside.

This is why we respectfully ask you to vote “yes” on the Great American Outdoors Act.

GAOA will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually, providing more recreation access for communities across the country and fueling more outdoor recreation economic activity. In a nutshell, if Congress invests the intended amount of \$900 million into LWCF recreation access projects on local, state and federal lands, it will create much-needed close-to-home recreation opportunities while revitalizing the outdoor recreation economy.

Additionally, GAOA dedicates up to \$9.5 billion over the next five years to maintenance backlog projects that have been devastating our public lands and waters. Investing in these projects will improve outdoor recreation-related facilities such as docks, restrooms, campgrounds, trails, roads and more that have deteriorated significantly from decades of underfunded maintenance. As business leaders, we understand the need to make sure customers have good experiences when they visit stores or facilities, it ensures they come back again. Funding the maintenance backlog will also ensure that adequate infrastructure for all types of recreation on our public lands and waters exists so more people who are seeking the benefits the outdoors has to offer can get outside safely and grow our industry sustainably.

Passing GAOA now would stimulate the outdoor recreation industry made up of thousands of businesses that support communities in all 50 states, support rural economies, create jobs to carry out essential work, and provide opportunities for millions of Americans to recreate on our public lands and waters for generations to come. We know this vital legislation is slated for a vote later this month and we urge you to move as quickly as possible to get this legislation across the finish line. Your support of GAOA is a vote for American jobs and health, community resiliency and the outdoor recreation economy. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Airstream, Inc.

Allen Harbor Marine Service

Alta Planning + Design, Inc.

American Land & Leisure

ARAMARK

Arc'teryx Equipment Inc.

Areté Structures, LLC

BA Services, Inc.

Basecamp Hospitality

Bass Pro Shops

Bell Helmets

Blackburn Design

Blue Springs Marine

Boat Owners Association of the United States

Boat Owners Warehouse

Boats Incorporated

Brunswick Corporation

Burton Snowboarding
Cabela's
California Land Management
CamelBak
Camperland of Oklahoma
Chaparral Boats, Inc.
CHM Government Services
Chris-Craft
Clark Marine
Cleveland Boat Center
Columbia Sportswear
Correct Craft
Creative Pultrusions
Crestview RV
Dee Zee, Inc.
Delaware North Parks and Resorts
Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle
FB Marine Group
FERA
First Lite
Forest River, Inc.
Forever Resorts
Formula Boats
Fort Sumter Tours
Freedom Boat Club
Galati Yacht Sales
Giro Sport Design
Glacier Guides & Montana Raft
Grand Design RV
Guest Services, Inc.
Hagadone Marine Group
Handout Gloves
Head USA
Hellwig Products Company Inc.
Hemlock Hill RV Sales
Hipcamp
Hoffmaster's Marina
Hornblower Cruises and Events
Indian Lake Marina, Inc
Indmar Products
K2 Sports
Kampgrounds of America, Inc.
Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
KEEN, Inc.
Lakeview Marine, Inc.
Leaird's Underwater Service
LKQ Corporation
Magic Tilt Trailers
Malibu Boats, Inc.
Marina Holdings
Marine Center of Indiana
Maverick Boat Group, Inc.
Morningstar Marinas
Mount Dora Boating Center
N3 Boatworks
Nantahala Outdoor Center
National Outdoor Leadership School
Newmar Corporation
Norfolk Marine Company
Oasis Marinas
Outdoor Research
Patagonia
Petzl America
Plano Synergy
Polaris Inc.
Port Harbor Marine
Priority RV Network
Pure Fishing
Quality Bicycle Products
Rapala USA
Recreation Resource Management
Red's Meadow Resort
Reed's Marine, Inc.
Regulator Marine, Inc.
REI
Rendezvous River Sports
Rhino Marking & Protection Systems
Rock Creek Lodge

Santa Barbara Adventure Company
Scuba Educators International
Seirus Innovative Accessories, Inc.
Shimano North America Fishing
Simms Fishing
Skyjacker Suspensions
Smoker Craft
SpiritLine Cruises
SRAM LLC
St. Croix Rods
Subaru of America
Sun RV Resorts
Superior Boat Repair & Sales
Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.
The North Face
The Sportsman
Thor Industries
Tiara Yachts & Tiara Sport
Trek Bikes
Turn 14 Distribution Inc.
VF Corporation
Vista Outdoor
Volvo Penta of the Americas
WARN Industries
Western Spirit Cycling Adventures
Westrec Marinas
WET River Trips
Wildwater River Guides
Winnebago Industries
Xanterra Travel Collection
Yamaha Rightwaters
Yogi Bear's Jellystone Parks
Zebco Brands