



January 20, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chairwoman  
Senate Commerce, Science and  
Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science and  
Transportation Committee  
420A Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), we would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Mayor Pete Buttigieg to be the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). We are hopeful that the Senate will confirm Mayor Buttigieg in a timely manner to ensure DOT can move forward with strong leadership early in the new administration.

ORR is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations – made up of 33 national trade associations — as well as other nonprofit organizations and business entities — serving more than 110,000 businesses. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis released last year, the recreation industry generated \$788 billion in output, accounted for 2.1 percent of GDP, supported 5.2 million jobs and was growing faster than the economy as a whole in every indicator.

DOT will play an important role in the next infrastructure debate, as well as policies related to reauthorization of the surface transportation legislation — both of which will be crucial to the Biden Administration's four pillars of economic recovery, COVID-19, climate change and racial equity. ORR members are excited to work with Mayor Buttigieg to modernize our nation's transportation networks and infrastructure, especially as it relates to providing access to quality outdoor recreation. DOT programs like the Federal Lands Transportation Program, the National Scenic Byways Program, and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund are critical to accessing quality outdoor recreation on public lands and waters, and advancing conservation. Additionally, Secretary-designate Buttigieg has the opportunity to fully-fund the Recreational Trails Program for the first time in the program's history, enhancing motorized and nonmotorized trails in a way that will help grow local economies and provide access to outdoor recreation for generations to come. The Department's role in reducing the maintenance backlog on public lands and waters, and providing resources for outdoor recreation infrastructure will continue to help outdoor recreation contribute to economic growth in local communities throughout the country.

As the nomination process continues, we appreciate you considering ORR's support for Mayor Buttigieg. We look forward to working with the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress on important issues for outdoor recreation that will help grow our industry and the nation's economy as a whole.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Davis  
Acting Executive Director