



February 22, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), we would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Representative Deb Haaland to be the next Secretary of the Interior. We appreciate her commitment to outdoor recreation and public lands policy, especially her strong support for the Great American Outdoors Act and her leadership on the Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act (SOAR Act). We are hopeful that the Senate will confirm Rep. Haaland in a timely manner to ensure that the Department of the Interior can move forward with effective leadership early in the new administration.

ORR is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations – made up of 33 national members — 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 economic 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.

The Department of the Interior will help lead land management policies for many of our nation's most important public lands and waters. Additionally, the Department will guide the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, which will provide needed investments into the Land and Water Conservation Fund and through maintenance backlogs on our public lands. Industry leaders who strongly supported these policies throughout the legislative process look forward to partnering with your committee and the new Department leadership on these important initiatives.

ORR is encouraged by the Biden Administration's goal to combat climate change through the 30 by 30 initiative. We look forward to working with Congress to make sure that through this initiative, Americans continue to have access to the public lands and waters that make outdoor recreation possible and that help to fuel so much of the nation's economy.

Additionally, we look forward to working with Rep. Haaland and her team on the many issues that the Department will be leading on that impact outdoor recreation. From National Parks to

fisheries habitat to trail and campsite maintenance, the Department of the Interior is well positioned to ensure outdoor recreation supports the Build Back Better plan, revitalizes our economy and provides equitable access to all forms of recreation for every American. We are hopeful that the Department will also work with the outdoor recreation industry on pending departmental rulemaking and decisions related to outdoor recreation that will make important contributions to the nation's economy and health.

As the nomination process continues, we appreciate you considering ORR's support for Rep. Haaland and hope that questions regarding outdoor recreation and its critical role in the wellbeing of America's families and economy are incorporated in the upcoming hearing.

We look forward to working with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the 117th Congress on important issues for outdoor recreation that will help grow our industry and the nation's economy as a whole.

Sincerely,

America Outdoors Association
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
CHM Government Services
Diving Equipment and 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
National RV Dealers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Outdoor Industry Association
PeopleForBikes
Professional TrailBuilders Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
The Corps Network