



May 11, 2021

Hon. Thomas R. Carper
Chair
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), we would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Shannon Estenoz to be the next Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior. We are hopeful that the Senate will confirm Ms. Estenoz in a timely manner to ensure that the Department can move forward with supporting the \$788 billion outdoor recreation economy.

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.

As Assistant Secretary, Ms. Estenoz will help lead management policies for many of our nation's most important public lands and waters. Additionally, she will play a key role in implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides much-needed investments in the deferred maintenance backlog on public lands and waters, as well as full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Industry leaders who strongly supported these policies throughout the legislative process look forward to partnering with your committee and Department leadership on these important initiatives.

ORR is encouraged by the Biden Administration's goal to grow diversity, increase access and combat climate change through the America the Beautiful initiative. As former COO of the Everglades Foundation, former Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and former Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives at the Department of the Interior, Ms. Estenoz has extensive knowledge of the conservation issues facing our nation and the crucial role outdoor recreation plays in maintaining our public lands and waters. We look forward to working with Congress to make sure that through this initiative, Americans continue to have access to the public spaces that make outdoor recreation possible and that help to fuel so much of the nation's economy.

Additionally, we look forward to working with Ms. Estenoz 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 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 allow our industry to continue to make important contributions to healthy people, places, communities and economies.

As the nomination process continues, we appreciate you considering ORR's support for Ms. Estenoz 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 Environment and Public Works 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Turner", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Jessica Turner
Executive Director