



June 7, 2021

The Honorable Joe Neguse
U.S. House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Russ Fulcher
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Neguse and Ranking Member Fulcher:

As trade associations and businesses in the outdoor recreation industry, we appreciate the upcoming National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee hearing that is set to focus on the *Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act*, the *Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act*, the *Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development (SHRED) Act*, and the *Environmental Justice in Recreation Permitting Act*. These bills are crucial to ensuring the outdoor recreation economy continues to grow, rural communities are able to build sustainable economies, and access to outdoor recreation is equitably expanded for all Americans.

As you know, outdoor recreation is a crucial sector of the American economy. Prior to the pandemic, our industry generated an economic output of \$778 billion, comprised 2.2 percent of GDP and supported 5.2 million jobs according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. But outdoor recreation does not just bring good-paying jobs to communities across the nation, it also improves their day-to-day health and quality of life. This has especially been true during the pandemic, as growing numbers of people have taken to the outdoors for respite and time with family and friends.

By providing new resources and direction to the federal land and water management agencies, these crucial pieces of legislation would make it easier for Americans to get outdoors and enjoy recreation experiences in our public spaces. Modernizing fee retention, streamlining permitting processes, and mapping standards, coupled with studying the effects of special recreation permits on environmental justice communities would help move these agencies into the 21st century. Specifically, the SOAR Act has been a priority for the outdoor recreation business community for years and providing these businesses hard-hit by the pandemic some certainty and transparency in the permitting process is an urgent need.

These important measures, along with other crucial pieces of legislation such as the *Recreation Not Red-Tape Act* and the *Recreational Trails Funding Act*, could be combined into a larger Recreation Package by House Natural Resource leadership. This Package would modernize federal land and water management agencies, support rural and urban economies, and help new and diverse users identify, protect, and access new recreation opportunities on public lands and waters. This would truly be a legacy achievement for both the subcommittee and the country's recreation economy. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to advance a Recreation Package.

Sincerely,
American Horse Council
American Mountain Guides Association
American Sportfishing Association

Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
CHM Government Services
Diving Equipment and Marketing Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National RV Dealers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
RV Industry Association
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Market Association
The Corps Network