



October 12, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

The outdoor business community thanks you for your attention and support for the *Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act (H.R. 3670)*. This important legislation is strongly supported by businesses and nonprofits across the outdoor industry. The industry feels a sense of urgency behind moving this bill that will help ensure the continued growth of this vibrant sector while helping to manage overcrowding at some recreation locations, as well as guarantee relief for businesses and communities hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and those struggling with the impacts of climate change. We appreciate your willingness to consider the SOAR Act, a pillar piece of bicameral and bipartisan recreation legislation, and strongly encourage its passage and timely consideration by the full House of Representatives.

ORR is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations – made up of 34 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 and 5.2 million American jobs, and was growing faster than the economy in every indicator. ORR member organizations appreciate your bipartisan commitment to advancing important outdoor recreation policy that provides greater opportunity for everyone to access the outdoors while also strengthening the outdoor recreation economy.

As the popularity and impact of this industry continues to grow, federal agencies need updated tools to provide sustainable and improved access to, and infrastructure on, America's public lands and waters. The *SOAR Act*, which includes provisions from the previously introduced Recreation Not Red Tape Act, expands access to outdoor experiences by improving outfitter and guide permitting systems and modernizing antiquated systems within the federal government that have created unnecessary barriers to accessing the outdoors. This legislation simplifies processes, increases flexibility in allowed activities, eliminates duplicative regulations, expands shoulder seasons to help with overcrowding at sites and much more. These provisions will positively impact a wide range of organizations that help Americans enjoy safe experiences in the outdoors including recreation businesses, for-profit and non-profit guides and outfitters, university recreation programs and volunteer-based clubs.

Additionally, this bill provides relief for small businesses and communities attempting to rebound from COVID-19 while dealing with seasons of severe wildfires, flooding and drought. Adding the SOAR Act into a first-ever Recreation Package would move our federal land management agencies into the twenty-first century, support rural and urban economies,

provide relief for businesses hit by COVID-19 and climate impacts, and help new and diverse users identify, protect, and access recreation opportunities on our shared public lands and waters. This would truly be a legacy achievement for the committee and the recreation economy across the country.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope for swift passage of this bill through committee. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure all Americans have access to recreation experiences on their public lands and waters and that all communities benefit from the growing recreation economy.

Sincerely,

America Outdoors
American Horse Council
American Mountain Guides Association
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
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
Motorcycle Industry Council
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
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports and Fitness Industry Association
The Corps Network