



The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Lowenthal, Ranking Member Stauber, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), thank you for bringing attention to the future of transmission infrastructure and renewable energy development on public lands by holding today's hearing. Alongside the hearing's focus on policies to expand renewable energy projects and transmission, we wish to bring your attention to another important aspect of electrifying public lands and waters—charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EV charging) to support outdoor recreation access for all Americans. We are pleased to provide the perspective of the outdoor recreation industry on the opportunities to incorporate EV charging infrastructure at recreation locations to ensure that recreationists can get outdoors while reducing their transportation emissions.

ORR is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations – made up of 35 national members, as well as other non-profit organizations and business entities — serving more than 110,000 businesses. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 as a whole in every indicator, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The impacts of climate change are a severe threat to our growing economic contributions and to the enjoyment of the outdoors for future generations. For these reasons, and many others, the outdoor recreation economy is uniquely suited to partner with Congress on clean infrastructure, technology and research that will mitigate climate change, improve the outdoor experience, support rural economies and create American jobs. Within this partnership, we hope to support the strategic deployment of EV charging on public lands and waters to ensure that a diverse array of outdoor recreationists have access to charging infrastructure at trailheads, marinas, and other important outdoor recreation locations.

With this opportunity in mind, we recommend that public land and water management agencies initiate a pilot program to build out electric charging stations to support deployment of renewable-powered outdoor recreation products on public lands and waters. Great American Outdoors Act maintenance backlog projects should be upgraded to tomorrow's standard of electric power and all projects and plans on public lands and waters should consider vehicles and recreation technologies of the future by partnering with the outdoor industry to better understand visitors' changing needs. Additionally, strategic infrastructure investments will help advance the renewable energy transition for outdoor recreation. Infrastructure investments can grow renewable charging recreation corridors through capitalizing on existing electric charging networks and making new build/utility upgrade investments where hydropower sources exist.



Fortunately, conversations around EV charging on public lands and waters are already taking place between public- and private-sector partners. As a September article in *Newsweek* highlighted, building EV charging infrastructure into national parks has been a goal of the National Park Service (NPS) since 2012, and NPS has worked closely with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to design proposed EV routes in parks. At the state level, new EV manufacturer Rivian has pledged to install charging stations and provide operations and maintenance for EV chargers across state parks in Colorado. But these efforts will not be enough for the unprecedented EV demand to come without a coordinated effort between Congress, agencies, and the outdoor recreation industry on opportunities, best practices, and challenges related to the deployment of EV charging infrastructure at our most beloved recreation locations.

As the discussion around electrification on public lands and waters expands, we hope the House Natural Resources Committee in the 117th Congress will see ORR as a key partner. We look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Turner', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Jessica Turner
Executive Director