



August 4, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cardin and Chairman Carper,

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) is America's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations and organizations working to promote the growth of the outdoor recreation economy and outdoor recreation activities. ORR members represent 110 thousand businesses that produce vehicles, equipment, gear, apparel, and services for the 144 million Americans who enjoy our national parks, waterways, byways, trails, and outdoor spaces. The various outdoor recreation business sectors produce a combined \$788 billion output for the U.S. economy and support 5.2 million direct jobs.

ORR and its members support increasing the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) by the same percentage increase that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is increased each year in the pending infrastructure bill. We ask that you also support the provision.

The RTP is funded with gas tax dollars paid by off-highway recreation every time we fuel up our vehicles. Those tax dollars are a set aside within the TAP program representing roughly nine percent of the total TAP. While funding is provided only by those fueling off-highway vehicles, all recreationists benefit from the RTP which by law funds 30% motorized, 30% non-motorized, and 40% mixed-use trails. According to an FHWA report released just last week, off-highway recreation pays \$281 million in gas tax dollars annually, but RTP only receives \$84 million of that per year in funding. It is time that recreational trails interests get back more of the tax dollars we pay in. Record numbers of people have been out enjoying our trails during the pandemic and off-highway vehicle sales have set records, meaning even more money is being paid into the fund.

Please SUPPORT an amendment increasing the Recreational Trails Program by the same amount as the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Sincerely,

Jessica Turner
Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association