



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association (ORR), the over 30 national outdoor recreation trade associations, and all who benefit from time outside, we appreciate your strong support for the recreation economy and stand with you in urging the passage of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. This legislation has strong bipartisan and bicameral support and has been endorsed by virtually every outdoor recreation industry organization, hundreds of outdoor businesses, and conservation groups.

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation associations representing the more than 110,000 outdoor businesses in the recreation economy and the full spectrum of outdoor-related activities. The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Commerce shows that outdoor recreation generated \$1.1 trillion and 5 million American jobs in 2022, comprising 2.2% of the nation's economy and 3.2% of all employees in the country.

The EXPLORE Act will create more access to outdoor recreation, provide a better experience for visitors to public lands and waters, modernize the permitting process for guides and outfitters, create new accessible trails for veterans and the disability community, expand the Every Kids Outdoors Act, codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP), identify new potential long distance bike trails, create more health and wellness opportunities including for mental health, and a better business environment to create more jobs. This transformative legislation is a win-win-win for businesses, our cherished lands and waters, and Democrats and Republicans alike, all while supporting rural economies, communities, and our American quality of life.

The EXPLORE Act would be the first-ever recreation package to pass the House, and one of the most significant outdoor recreation legislative victories we can all be proud of. Aspects of this historic legislation have been worked on by bipartisan congressional champions in the House and Senate and stakeholders for more than a decade. Passage of these critical and timely policies will provide long-term benefits to local economies in rural and urban areas, every sector of the broader outdoor recreation industry, and every person who will now be able to experience more time outside.



We thank you again for your leadership and strongly encourage your colleagues to pass this legislation today. We look forward to working with you and your staff over the coming weeks to ensure these bipartisan and pragmatic policies get signed into law.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
American Horse Council
American Mountain Guides Association
America Outdoors
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Marina Industries
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
CHM Government Services
Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Ski Area Association
New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division
Outdoor Industry Association
PeopleForBikes
Professional TrailBuilders Association
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
REI Co-op
Rivian
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
The Corps Network
Trust for Public Land
VF Corporation