



October 16, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of dozens of organizations representing thousands of member companies, thank you for your support of the outdoor recreation economy. As leaders of the nation's leading outdoor recreation associations, we are writing to urge the passage of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act by the end of Congress, on its own or in any moving legislative vehicle. The EXPLORE Act is bipartisan and bicameral legislation that passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent and almost identical versions have passed the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources without opposition. This bill shares support from Democrats, Republicans, the entire recreation economy, the conservation community, and the American public eager to have better access and infrastructure for recreating outdoors. We are hopeful that we can work with you to ensure this legislation passes the Senate and is signed into law this year.

ORR 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 3.3% of all employees in the country.

With record numbers of Americans participating in outdoor recreation, there is an urgent need for the EXPLORE Act, which reforms outdated policies and antiquated procedures. The legislation will also increase the opportunities for everyone to access outdoor recreation, while preserving our public lands and waters. Many of the provisions in EXPLORE have been worked on by stakeholders and policymakers for decades. The impact of this legislation will be significant, benefiting the outdoor recreation economy nationwide, local communities, and the quality of life for Americans. The costs of inaction, especially after such overwhelming support, are profound.

As you develop the agenda for the remainder of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, we respectfully request that the EXPLORE Act be given a legislative path to passage. We are not aware of any opposition to the provisions within this legislation and the access, economic, and land and water management impacts provided by this bill are vital to our industry members and the broader visitor experience on public lands.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important legislation and thank you for your continued support of the recreation economy and our ability to support healthy people, places, and economies.

Sincerely,



Jessica Wahl Turner  
President  
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association

Aaron Bannon  
Executive Director  
America Outdoors

Julie Broadway  
President  
American Horse Council

Matt Wade  
Executive Director  
American Mountain Guides Association

Glenn Hughes  
President  
American Sportfishing Association

Dan Forster  
VP & Chief Conservation Officer  
Archery Trade Association

Rick Chapman  
Chairman of the Board  
Association of Marina Industries

Jeannette Stawski  
Executive Director  
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education

Heather Lougheed  
President  
BoatUS Foundation

Tom Ingram  
President & CEO  
Diving Equipment and Marketing Association

Jaret Smith



President  
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association

Matt Gruhn  
President  
Marine Retailers Association of America

Christy Lacurelle  
President & CEO  
Motorcycle Industry Council

Kevin Garden  
Washington DC Representative  
National Forest Recreation Association

Frank Hugelmeyer  
President  
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Mindy Meade Meyers  
Executive Director  
National Park Hospitality Association

Grant Colvin  
Government Affairs Consultant  
National Ski Areas Association

Paul Bambei  
President & CEO  
Outdoor Hospitality Industry

Kent Ebersole  
President  
Outdoor Industry Association

Chez Chesak  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Writers Association of America

Jeff Turner  
Executive Director  
Paddlesports Trade Coalition

Jenn Dice  
President & CEO  
PeopleForBikes



Aaryn Kay  
Executive Director  
Professional TrailBuilders Association

Scott Schloegel  
Senior Vice President  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association

Phil Ingrassia  
President  
RV Dealers Association

Craig Kirby  
President & CEO  
RV Industry Association

Nick Sargent  
President  
Snowsports Industries America

Rachel Franchina  
Executive Director  
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

Mike Spagnola  
President & CEO  
Specialty Equipment Market Association

Scott Schloegel  
Senior Vice President  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

Bill Sells  
Senior VP for Government & Public Affairs  
Sports and Fitness Industry Association

Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
President & CEO  
The Corps Network

CC:



The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate  
Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Natural Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Natural Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515