



June 23, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
230 – The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), 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, we respectfully request that you remove provisions that mandate the sale of public lands that were included in the reconciliation legislation. This sale of hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands could have a significant impact on the Americans who visit their lands and waters for recreational purposes and the broader \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation industry that sustains 5 million American jobs 2.2% of the nation's economy and 3.2% of all employees in the country.

At a time when the outdoor recreation industry is facing significant headwinds, keeping public lands public is a bipartisan, pro-business solution that ensures economic growth, job creation, continued recreational opportunities, and safeguards for outdoor businesses. The provisions that mandate the sale of 2-3 million acres of public lands in the budget reconciliation package put businesses at-risk, establishes a precedent that could be further leveraged in the future to expand the sale of public lands, and will remove these lands forever without local input, appropriate evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and takes that important revenue from rural communities.

Outdoor recreation businesses and rural communities alike need certainty, access, and long-term infrastructure. Keeping public lands and waters open and accessible is a business imperative that ensures economic growth, job creation, continued recreational opportunities, safeguards for outdoor businesses, and attracts investment in gateway communities that depend on these lands for their livelihoods.

We believe there may be instances in which small, targeted leases, exchanges or sale-purchase models will be in the [public's and recreationists' interest](#)— and look forward to working with members of your caucus to better understand their constituents' needs and find common sense solutions. However, reconciliation legislation does not allow for appropriate mechanisms to protect recreation access, funding, or public input and instead sets a dangerous precedent that lands can be sold anytime the U.S. Treasury needs a budget 'pay-for,' depriving the American people of the ongoing return on investment public lands provide and the certainty that they will always be there, as they have been for generations.

Outdoor recreation remains a vital part of local economies, especially in rural communities. Unilaterally removing lands with recreational value from public ownership is a losing issue for the American public, businesses and many Republicans in Congress. We would encourage you to remove these harmful provisions before final passage, just as they were removed in the House version. We will continue our work with the Trump Administration, Republicans and Democrats



standing up for America's best return on investment: our public lands and waters. We look forward to working with you, your staff and caucus to ensure the outdoor recreation economy grows across the country through meaningful and sound policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "J. Turner".

Jessica Turner, President, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
American Mountain Guides Association
American Sportfishing Association
CHM Government Services
iSportsman
Maine Outdoor Brands
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
Outdoor Hospitality Industry (OHI)
Outdoor Industry Association
Paddlesports Trade Coalition
PeopleForBikes
Professional TrailBuilders Association
RV Dealers Association
RV Industry Association
Snowsports Industries America
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
VF Corporation