



September 29, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader

RE: Climate Provisions in Reconciliation Bill

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

We are writing today to express our strong support for the significant and meaningful climate provisions contained in the proposed budget reconciliation bill. Our companies, as well as those that make up our \$788 billion outdoor industry and our 5.2 million employees, are at the front lines of the fight against climate change because of supply chain disruptions, the shifting consumer environment, and the impact of extreme weather events on the American outdoor experience. We are already taking significant actions to reduce emissions and embrace climate-forward practices, but the federal government needs to do more if we are going to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

Meaningful federal policies are required to address the growing threat of climate change, encourage other industries to join the effort, and ultimately strengthen America's economy. The reconciliation bill being debated offers a historic chance to pass legislation significant enough to tackle these climate issues head on and make progress on many of the [policies](#) key to the outdoor industry's continued success. These priorities include programs to promote natural climate solutions and resilience, increase access to parks and outdoor spaces for underserved communities, and accelerate the transition to renewable energy.

Specifically, we support the creation of and funding for a Civilian Climate Corps, which will bring thousands of jobs to local communities, advance implementation of the "Great American Outdoors Act," and mitigate the impacts of devastating wildfires and droughts. Provisions like the Growing Climate Solutions Act, which has bipartisan support, will promote important natural climate solutions and resilience, not to mention bring the green economy to the agriculture industry – an important partner to the outdoor industry. Programs that make renewable energy more accessible and create jobs, like the Clean Electricity Performance Program and funding for electric vehicle and electric bicycle infrastructure, are also essential to clean air and a healthy environment that will enable more people to get outside. At the same time, the transition to renewable energy must be accompanied by investment in workforce training and transition support for traditional energy communities, which this bill rightly does. Additionally, we back efforts designed to increase access to outdoor spaces for communities that have been traditionally underserved, such as the Urban Parks/Outdoor Recreation Legacy Parks Program and Every Kid Outdoors.

Although the reconciliation package is a sprawling piece of legislation and we might not agree on every provision or pay-for, our companies are united in the belief that meaningful climate provisions are critical – not just to protect the planet, but to safeguard the success of our industry and the American economy.

Now more than ever, addressing the climate crisis is top of mind for the majority of Americans. Ninety-two percent of Americans say protecting the environment for future generations is very important or somewhat important to them. And the majority of individuals also say businesses, corporations, and the federal government are doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change. Right now, there is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show the American people that we hear them. This is a moment when individual, business, and federal government action matters – and we are proud to take this stand.

Together, the outdoor industry is a force. Taking historic, substantial climate action through the reconciliation package will ensure our industry, the economy, and our planet can thrive for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working together to continue to protect the outdoor experience for all Americans and strengthen the outdoor recreation economy.

Sincerely,



Lise Aangeenbrug
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association

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