

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

We are writing today to express our strong support for the significant and meaningful climate provisions contained in the Build Back Better Act, as well as President Biden's budget [proposal](#) to deliver \$44.9 billion across the federal government to tackle climate change and continue building a better America. Our member companies, as well as others that make up our [\\$689 billion](#) outdoor industry with its 4.3 million employees, are already facing the consequences of climate change, and we are taking concrete steps to reduce our carbon emissions and adopt climate-smart business practices. However, to truly move the needle on climate change, the federal government must continue to do its part.

As we look ahead, the urgency for acting on climate will only increase. Our companies are united in the belief that meaningful climate provisions are critical, not just to protect the planet, but also to safeguard the success of our industry and the American economy. The climate provisions contained in the Build Back Better Act offer a historic chance 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 deploy a reimaged Civilian Climate Corps (CCC).

For starters, a revitalized CCC would create thousands of jobs, bring new economic opportunity to communities across the country, and support critical outdoor recreation and conservation projects created by funding in the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), while simultaneously making our outdoor spaces more climate resilient and accessible.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted daily life two years ago, a [record number](#) of people began participating in outdoor recreation, with increases in participation among more diverse populations, including females, young people, and urban residents. As more Americans seek refuge in the outdoors, the CCC will ensure every person – regardless of zip code – will have access to parks and green spaces. Rebuilding green spaces in underserved areas will create healthier communities and countless new opportunities for those impacted by the pandemic to find meaningful employment and new career pathways.

A \$16.7 billion proposed [increase](#) for climate initiatives over the administration's budget last year would provide additional funding to promote natural climate solutions, increase access to outdoor spaces for all, and accelerate the transition to renewable energy. Programs and investments to make clean, renewable energy more accessible and widespread are essential to clean air and a healthy environment that will create new steady sources of revenue for local communities and 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.

With extreme weather events and rising temperatures already causing significant disruptions to supply chains and the way people live their lives, it is clear why more Americans than ever say protecting the environment [is important](#) to them. Adopting these policies and addressing the growing threat of climate change will show the American people that we hear them and are taking real action.

We look forward to working with you and the rest of Congress to strengthen the outdoor recreation economy and protect and restore the outdoors.

Thank you,

Outdoor Industry Association