

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128, Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-146A, Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear House and Senate Appropriators:

The undersigned hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation organizations, representing millions of Americans' shared commitment to wildlife and our nation's \$689 billion outdoor recreation economy, write to thank you for your support for the recently enacted Modernizing Access to our Public Land (MAPLand) Act, and urge you to provide the fully authorized funding amount in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

The federal government manages over 640 million acres of public lands held in trust for all Americans. These lands define our great nation and provide innumerable unique opportunities for hunting, recreation, and education. However, as more outdoor enthusiasts utilize GPS tools, the recordkeeping of easement data and access information at federal land management agencies has failed to keep pace.

The MAPLand Act directs federal land management agencies to consolidate, digitize, and make publicly available all recreational access information in a format that can be used with mapping programs and GPS technologies. This includes information on legal easements and rights-of-way, closures, or other special rules and restrictions. To ensure the agencies can meet the goals of the legislation, we request that your committee provide the following in FY 23:

- \$5.5 million to the Department of the Interior
- \$5.5 million to the Department of Agriculture
- \$2.5 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

To achieve the vision outlined in the MAPLand Act, the agencies need additional resources to effectively collect, modernize, and make this data available. Doing so will help identify and prioritize projects for new or improved public access, and benefit millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to coordinating with Congress and the federal land management agencies on the one-year progress report to ensure the money appropriated is implemented in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Angler Action  
Archery Trade Association  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl  
Fly Fishers International  
Houston Safari Club  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Bobwhite & Grasslands Initiative  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Orion: The Hunter's Institute  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope and Young Club  
Quail Forever  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi  
Wild Sheep Foundation

CC:

Rep. Chellie Pingree, Chair, House Interior Subcommittee  
Rep. David Joyce, Ranking Member, House Interior Subcommittee  
Senator Jeff Merkley, Chair, Senate Interior Subcommittee  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Interior Subcommittee

Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Chair, House Energy & Water Subcommittee

Rep. Michael Simpson, House Energy & Water Subcommittee

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chair, Senate Energy & Water Development Subcommittee

Senator John Kennedy, Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee