



May 3, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Dear Senators Manchin and Barrasso,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Outdoor Recreation Act package currently under consideration by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This legislation provides meaningful funding to build outdoor recreation opportunities across the country by expanding the time federal lands are open to the public, investing in specific recreation infrastructure like cycling trails and outdoor entrepreneurial training programs, and utilizing real-time data to extend the outdoor recreation season. Investments like these will have a real impact on the ability of all Americans to spend time outside and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation.

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of American life and a pillar of our economy, contributing more than [\\$689 billion](#) to our economy and supporting 4.3 million jobs. Increased support for outdoor recreation through federal investments in recreation infrastructure and public parks – like those proposed in your legislation – are critical to the continued success of our businesses and the outdoor industry.

Millions of Americans turned to the outdoors, including more women, more urban-dwellers, and more ethnically diverse individuals to find refuge during these difficult times. Yet, more than 100 million Americans still do not live within walking or biking distance of a park. Now more than ever, people are experiencing the physical and mental health benefits of getting outside, and Congress can take action to support this newfound shift to the outdoors. The Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act would take concrete steps to expand access to the outdoors by investing in local parks, playgrounds, and green spaces.

Additionally, our companies proudly support the provisions outlined in the Outdoors for All Act, which would benefit underserved communities by creating inclusive outdoor recreation programs that bring economic and health benefits to low-income neighborhoods. The Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act and Recreation Not Red Tape Act (RNR) would further increase access to the outdoors by simplifying the permitting process for public lands and cutting regulatory red tape that creates barriers to recreation.



By increasing Americans' access to outdoor spaces and recreation, these bills will provide meaningful economic opportunities to countless communities and local outdoor industry businesses. Following two years of COVID-19 related lockdowns and economic stress, these proposals would help strengthen the outdoor industry while improving the mental, physical, and economic well-being of everyone, regardless of zip code, background, or income.

Our industry is united in efforts to encourage members of the committee to advance these bills and invest in the outdoor industry and the American tradition of the outdoors. We look forward to working with you, your fellow lawmakers, and the Biden administration to strengthen the future of outdoor recreation.

Thank you,

Outdoor Industry Association

Bell
Blackburn
Bushnell
CCI
Camp Chef
CamelBak
Federal
Giro
Gold Tip
Hydro Flask
L.L.Bean
NEMO Equipment
OXO
Orvis
Osprey
Patagonia
Primos
QuietKat
REI Co-op
Remington
Speer
Toad&Co
Vista Outdoor