

April 28, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Increasing access, equity, and jobs in the outdoor recreation industry as part of economic recovery efforts.

Dear Biden-Harris Administration,

As state legislators, we recognize the importance of outdoor recreation for both its economic and health benefits. With the COVID-19 pandemic more and more Americans are opting to recreate outside and we have been reminded of the critical importance of the public spaces. Whether it is in a city park, or national park, it has become increasingly clear how important it is to have areas, facilities, and programs for outdoor recreation that are accessible to Americans of all incomes and abilities. We understand economic recovery is one of the priorities of the Biden-Harris administration and we believe improving outdoor recreation facilities and creating programs to improve access for individuals from all walks of life can play an important role in helping our country recover from the pandemic.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated that the outdoor recreation economy accounted for 2.1 percent (\$459.8 billion) of current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) for the nation in 2019. We strongly believe that target stimulus for this important and growing industry will pay dividends in the long run.

We encourage you to consider something like the Civilian Conservation Corps that was established by President Roosevelt in 1933. The COVID-19 pandemic has left far too many Americans unemployed, and at the same time outdoor recreation infrastructure is falling apart. In 2018 the National Park Service estimated that deferred maintenance for their facilities totaled \$11.92 billion. A program like the Civilian Conservation Corps would not only employ Americans, but at the same time could help address the huge backlog of deferred maintenance our outdoor recreation infrastructure desperately needs.

In addition, we ask that you address the issue of outdoor equity in the United States. We encourage your administration to consider creating and modeling a national outdoor equity fund on the New Mexico outdoor recreation fund that was recently created by state legislation. This is the perfect time to support getting more Americans from all backgrounds outside to recreate. With the ongoing pandemic it has been widely recognized that outdoor recreation is one of the

safest ways for individuals to exercise. Small federal grants that would enable local organizations to start or improve outdoor recreation programs for all, would go a long way towards improving the health of Americans.

We are excited to work with your administration to improve access to the outdoors for all Americans and we are eager to support a Civilian Conservation Corps style of program to maintain our existing outdoor recreation facilities and potentially improve our public lands with new trails, campgrounds and interpretive facilities. Investing in outdoor recreation and funding outdoor recreation programs to increase outdoor equity not only make sense economically but will also help keep Americans healthy.

CC: Secretary Debra Haaland, United States Department of Interior
Secretary Thomas Vilsack, United States Department of Agriculture
Chairman Joseph Manchin III, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
House Natural Resources Committee

Sincerely,

Representative Geran Tarr
Alaska

Representative Matt Claman
Alaska

Representative Andrea Dalessandro
Arizona

Representative Daniel Hernandez
Arizona

Senator Scott Wiener
California

Representative Emily Sirota
Colorado

Representative Brianna Titone
Colorado

Senator Bob Duff
Connecticut

Representative Susan Johnson
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan
Connecticut

Representative Park Cannon
Georgia

Senator Sheikh Rahman
Georgia

Representative Kim Schofield
Georgia

Representative Sandra Scott
Georgia

Representative Patrick Branco
Hawai'i

Senator Stanley Chang
Hawai'i

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Hawai'i

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Hawai'i

Representative Matthew LoPresti
Hawai'i

Representative Lisa Marten
Hawai'i

Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Hawai'i

Senator Joy San Buenaventura
Hawai'i

Representative Adrian Tam
Hawai'i

Representative Tina Wildberger
Hawai'i

Senator Eric Giddens
Iowa

Representative Al Gentry
Kentucky

Representative Lisa Willner
Kentucky

Senator David Miramant
Maine

Senator Eloise Vitelli
Maine

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Maryland

Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Maryland

Delegate Brooke Lierman
Maryland

Senator Mike Gabbard
Hawai'i

Senator Chris Lee
Hawai'i

Representative Nicole Lowen
Hawai'i

Senator Bennette Misalucha
Hawai'i

Representative Amy Perruso
Hawai'i

Representative Roy Takumi
Hawai'i

Representative David Tarnas
Hawai'i

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Illinois

Representative Annie Kuether
Kansas

Representative Attica Scott
Kentucky

Representative Michelle Dunphy
Maine

Representative Laurie Osher
Maine

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