



June 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

The outdoor recreation industry is extremely encouraged by recent announcements that the Senate plans to hold a vote on the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) in June. As outdoor recreation business leaders, we know investments in recreation access and infrastructure are vital to the outdoor recreation industry and economies across the country.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the outdoor recreation industry contributed \$778 billion in economic output, accounted for 2.2 percent of United States Gross Domestic Product, supported 5.2 million jobs and was growing faster than the economy as a whole in every indicator. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns necessary to slow its progression, America’s outdoor recreation economy was hindered when we needed the outdoors more than ever. Outdoor Recreation Roundtable’s April survey of the sector shows that 79 percent of outdoor businesses have had to lay off or furlough employees, and 89 percent are seeing decreased revenue. However, we know there is a bright future for outdoor recreation ahead, as several sectors of the industry are already experiencing rapidly increasing demand.

These outdoor businesses are the backbone of our industry and range from specialty retailers, apparel, gear and vehicle manufacturers, outfitters and guides to campground and marina operators. They are often foundational to a community’s economy. With rising unemployment and Americans eager to experience the outdoors, investment in our industry’s core infrastructure – public lands and waters – will allow our businesses to get back to what we do

best: stimulate local economies, put people back to work, and allow Americans to benefit from time spent outside.

This is why we respectfully ask you to pass the Great American Outdoors Act as soon as possible.

GAOA will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually, providing more recreation access for communities across the country and fueling more outdoor recreation economic activity. In a nutshell, if Congress invests the intended amount of \$900 million into LWCF recreation access projects on local, state and federal lands, it will create much-needed close-to-home recreation opportunities while revitalizing the outdoor recreation economy.

Additionally, GAOA dedicates up to \$9.5 billion over the next five years to maintenance backlog projects that have been devastating our public lands and waters. Investing in these projects will improve outdoor recreation-related facilities such as docks, restrooms, campgrounds, trails, roads and more that have deteriorated significantly from decades of underfunded maintenance. As business leaders, we understand the need to make sure customers have good experiences when they visit stores or facilities, it ensures they come back again. Funding the maintenance backlog will also ensure that adequate infrastructure for all types of recreation on our public lands and waters exists so more people who are seeking the benefits the outdoors has to offer can get outside safely and grow our industry sustainably.

Passing GAOA now would stimulate the outdoor recreation industry made up of thousands of businesses that support communities in all 50 states, support rural economies, create jobs to carry out essential work, and provide opportunities for millions of Americans to recreate on our public lands and waters for generations to come. We know this vital legislation is slated for a vote in the coming weeks and we urge you to move as quickly as possible to get this legislation across the finish line. Your support of GAOA is a vote for American jobs and health, community resiliency and the outdoor recreation economy. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Airstream, Inc.

Alta Planning + Design, Inc.

Arc'teryx Equipment Inc.

Areté Structures, LLC

Bass Pro Shops

Bell Helmets

Blackburn Design

Blue Springs Marine

Boat Owners Association of the United States

Boat Owners Warehouse

Boats Incorporated

Brunswick Corporation

Cabela's

CamelBak

Camperland of Oklahoma

Chaparral Boats, Inc.

CHM Government Services

Chris-Craft

Clark Marine

Cleveland Boat Center
Correct Craft
Creative Pultrusions
Crestview RV
Dee Zee, Inc.
Delaware North Parks and Resorts
Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle
FERA
Forest River, Inc.
Forever Resorts
Formula Boats
Fort Sumter Tours
Freedom Boat Club
Galati Yacht Sales
Giro Sport Design
Glacier Guides & Montana Raft
Grand Design RV
Guest Services, Inc.
Hagadone Marine Group
Handout Gloves
Head USA
Hellwig Products Company Inc.
Hemlock Hill RV Sales
Hipcamp
Hornblower Cruises and Events
Indian Lake Marina, Inc
Indmar Products
K2 Sports
Kampgrounds of America, Inc.
Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
Lakeview Marine, Inc.
LKQ Corporation
Magic Tilt Trailers
Malibu Boats, Inc.
Marina Holdings
Marine Center of Indiana
Maverick Boat Group, Inc.
Mount Dora Boating Center
N3 Boatworks

Nantahala Outdoor Center
National Outdoor Leadership School
Newmar Corporation
Patagonia
Petzl America
Plano Synergy
Polaris, Inc.
Port Harbor Marine
Priority RV Network
Pure Fishing
Quality Bicycle Products
Rapala USA
Reed's Marine, Inc.
Regulator Marine, Inc.
REI
Rendezvous River Sports
Rhino Marking & Protection Systems
Santa Barbara Adventure Company
Seirus Innovative Accessories, Inc.
Shimano North America Fishing
Simms Fishing
Skyjacker Suspensions
Smoker Craft
SpiritLine Cruises
SRAM LLC
St. Croix Rods
Sun RV Resorts
Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.
The North Face
Tiara Yachts & Tiara Sport
Trek Bikes
Turn 14 Distribution Inc.
VF Corporation
Vista Outdoor
Volvo Penta of the Americas
WARN Industries
Westrec Marinas
WET River Trips
Wildwater River Guides

Winnebago Industries
Xanterra Travel Collection
Yamaha Rightwaters
Yogi Bear's Jellystone Parks
Zebco Brands