Support for the Great American Outdoors Act

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

Our organizations, and the members we represent, strongly support passage and subsequent enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422) as quickly as possible. This bill is necessary to support the public lands we all rely upon by achieving the twin goals of protecting America’s special places and repairing deteriorating infrastructure. We urge you to vote in favor of this crucial legislation and to oppose any amendments to it.

The bill will help address priority repairs in our national parks and on other public lands by directing up to $9.5 billion over five years to address maintenance needs within the National Park System, other public land agencies, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. It will also fully and, permanently dedicate $900 million per year already being deposited into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our nation’s most important conservation program, to ensure protection of and access to irreplaceable lands and local recreation opportunities.

This legislation was introduced on March 9 and has the strong bipartisan support of a majority of the Senate. It is consistent with legislation supported by a surpassing bipartisan majority in the House, and the President has specifically requested this bill for his signature, creating an unprecedented opportunity for a historic win for the American public and the places they care about.

The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure a future for nature to thrive, kids to play, and hunters and anglers to enjoy. National parks and public lands provide access to the outdoors for hundreds of millions of people every year and habitat for some of our country’s most iconic wildlife. These treasured places also tell the stories that define and unite us as a nation. Funds provided in this bill will secure these vital resources while preserving water quantity and quality, sustaining working landscapes and rural economies, increasing access for recreation for all Americans no matter where they live, and fueling the juggernaut of our outdoor economy.

In 2018, over 318 million national park visits led to $20.2 billion in direct spending at hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and other amenities in gateway communities, supporting over 329,000 jobs and generating over $40.1 billion in total economic output. Nationally, outdoor recreation contributes $778 billion in consumer spending and supports 5.2 million jobs.

The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure that our parks and other public lands continue to preserve our nation’s heritage and recreation opportunities, and that local communities and economies in these areas will continue to flourish.
We urge you to support our parks and public lands by voting for the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422) as a clean bill with no amendments. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

National

American Battlefield Trust
American Conservation Coalition
American Endurance Ride Conference
American Forests
American Hiking Society
American Horse Council
American Littoral Society
American Mountain Guides Association
American Rivers
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Sportfishing Association
American Trails
American Woodcock Society
Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Archery Trade Association
Audubon Naturalist Society
Back Country Horsemen of America
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Boone and Crockett Club
City Parks Alliance
Clean Water Action
Cliff Garten and Associates Inc.
Coalition for American Heritage
Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks
Coalitions & Collaboratives
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Defenders of Wildlife
Diving Equipment & Marketing Association
Docomomo US
Environment America
Fly Fishers International
GreenLatinos
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
HECHO(Hispanics enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors)
Hipcamp
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Izaak Walton League of America
Just Get Outdoors
Land Trust Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Moonshot Missions
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Coast Trail Association
National Deer Alliance
National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Foundation
National Park Hospitality Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Gear Camouflage
Natural Resources Defense Council
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Partnership for the National Trails System
Patagonia
PeopleForBikes
Piragis Northwoods Co
Public Lands Alliance
Quality Deer Management Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
REI Co-op
Ruffed Grouse Society
RV Industry Association
Scenic America
Sierra Club
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Equipment Marketing Association
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**State and Local**

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Alaska State Parks
Alaska Trails
Alice Austen House
Alice Ferguson Foundation
All Good
Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance
Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
Amazing Earthfest
American Anthropological Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Society of Landscape Architects - Prairie Gateway Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects - Alabama Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects - Kentucky Chapter
Anacostia Watershed Society
Andy Laub Films
Angler Action Foundation
Animaashi Sailing Company
Anza-Borrego Foundation
Aquanauts Adaptive Aquatics, Inc.
AQuashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Arboretum Foundation
Archaeological Society of New Jersey
Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Heritage Alliance
Arizona Land and Water Trust
Arizona Trail Association
Arkansas Hospitality Association
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
Ashford Conservation Commission
Aspen Valley Land Trust
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Audubon Everglades
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Audubon South Carolina
Back Country Horsemens of Colorado
Back Country Horsemens of Uwharrie, NC
Backcountry Horsemens of California
Baltimore Tree Trust
Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Bay County Conservancy, Inc.
Bayou Land Conservancy
Bear Warriors United
Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Big Hole River Foundation
Big Sur Land Trust
Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust
Bighorn River Alliance
Bird Conservation Fund
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce
Blue Bike Burrito
Blue Goose Alliance
Blue Ridge Conservancy
Blue Scholars Initiative
Blue Water Baltimore
Bold Archery Design
Boone Area Chamber of Commerce
Boston Harbor Now
Boulder County
Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitor Bureau
Brandywine Conservancy
Bryson City Outdoors Inc.
Bucks County Audubon Society
Building Bridges Across the River
Burney Chamber of Commerce
Business for Montana's Outdoors
California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition
California League of Conservation Voters
California Mountain Biking Alliance
California Native Plant Society
California Waterfowl Association
California Wilderness Coalition
Californians for Western Wilderness
Camp Denali
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Carefree of Colorado
Catawba Lands Conservancy
Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Inc.
Central Arizona Land Trust
Charleston Audubon
Charlevoix Main Street DDA
Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Cherry Republic
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce
Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
Chickasaw Nation
Chispa Arizona
Chuck Robbins Chapter 656 of Trout Unlimited
Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (PennFuture)
Citizens For Water
Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River
City of Michigan City Indiana Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Roseburg
Clean Ocean Access
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
College Republicans at Belmont University
Collette Travel
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Youth Corps Association
Columbia Land Trust
Community Training Works Inc.
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association
Concrete Safaris Inc.
Congaree Land Trust
Connecticut Audubon Society
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Connecticut Ornithology Association
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Conservation Alabama
Conservation Council For Hawaii
Conservation Legacy
Conservation Minnesota
Conservation Northwest
Conservation Trust for NC
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Conserving Carolina
Contour Design Studio LLC
Cornerstone Studios
Cowboy Trail Rides
Cradle of Texas Conservancy, Inc.
Cycle for One Planet
Cypress Chapter, Izaak Walton League
Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.
Dana Bronfman LLC
Darby Communications
Davidson Lands Conservancy
Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
Delaware Electric Vehicle Association (DEEVA)
Delaware Greenways
Delaware Nature Society
Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.
Delta Waterfowl
Denali Citizens Council
Denali Mountain Works
Deschutes Land Trust
Dishman Hills Conservancy
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Door County Kayak Tours, llc.
Downeast Salmon Federation
Dry Creek Trail Riders
E Mau Na Ala Hele
Eagle Valley Land Trust
EarthCorps
East Bay Regional Park District
East Bay Regional Parks Association
East Coast Greenway Alliance
East Cooper Land Trust
Eastern RI Conservation District
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Eastham Chamber of Commerce
Ecological Connections
Edward Hopper House
Elks Run Watershed Group
Empire Chamber of Commerce
Enchanted Circle Trails Association
Endangered Habitats League
Eno River Association
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Florida
Environment for the Americas
Environment Georgia
Environment Maine
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Montana
Environment NC
Environment Nevada
Environment New Jersey
Environment New Mexico
Environment Oregon
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environmental Justice Center at Chestnut Hill
United Church
Estes Park ATV rentals
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Excelsior Sewing LLC.
Experience Learning
Explore Asheville
Flathead Lakers
Flathead Land Trust
Florida Bay Forever
Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Florida Keys Environmental Fund, Inc.
Florida Trail Association
Florida Trust for Historic Preservation
Florida Wildlife Federation
Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina
Footloose Montana
Forest issues Group
Forests Forever
ForeverGreen Trails
Forterra
Four Corners Back Country Horsemen
Frankfort-Elberta Area Chamber of Commerce
Friends of Acadia
Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.
Friends of Friendship of Salem
Friends of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of Johnston, Inc.
Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters
Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
Friends of Lafitte Greenway
Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Metro Parks
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Nulhegan Basin Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
Friends of Quincy Run Watershed
Friends of Shiloh National Park
Friends of the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Big Sioux River
Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Inc.
Friends of the Cheat
Friends of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Friends of the Heinz Refuge
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Mariana Trench
Friends of the Mississippi River
Friends of the Moshassuck
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau
Friends of the Rappahannock
Friends of the San Pedro River, Inc.
Friends of the Sonoran Desert
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park, Inc.
Gaia Graphics Associates
Gallatin Valley Land Trust
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts
Genesee Valley Audubon Society
George Grant Chapter Trout Unlimited
Georges River Land Trust
Georgia Chapter - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Georgia Conservation Voters
Georgia River Network
GERRY Outdoors
Gilroy Growing Smarter, Gilroy Historical Society
Golden Properties
Goulding's Lodge
Grand Canyon Conservancy
Great Basin Institute
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Great Outdoor Store
Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Greater Lovell Land Trust
Greater Munising Bay Partnership/Alger County Chamber
Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.
Green Valleys Watershed Association
Greens N Grains
Greensboro Land Trust
Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce
Groundwork Lawrence
Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
Guam Preservation Trust
Guardians of the Brandywine
Harriet Tubman Boosters, Inc.
Hawaii Audubon Society
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Henderson County Tourism Development Authority
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance
Hill Country Conservancy
Hill Country Land Trust
Historic Atlanta
Historic Boston Inc.
The Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
The Good Talk, LLC
The Jersey Shore Partnership
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC)
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
The Mountaineers
The Oblong Land Conservancy
The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
The Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region
The Otos Group, LLC
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The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House
The Trustees
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The Vital Ground Foundation
The Wetlands Conservancy
The Wetlands Initiative
The Wilderness Society - Wyoming
The Wildlands Conservancy
The ZaneRay Group
Three Rivers Land Trust
Tishomingo County Tourism Council
TOGETHER Bay Area
Tockany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership
Town of Athol, Massachusetts, Open Space And Recreation Committee
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Travelers' Rest Connection
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Treeline Coffee Roasters
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Triangle Greenways Council
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TripHero
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Trout Unlimited, Pat Barnes Chapter, Helena, MT
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Urbana Park District
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Valley Creek Restoration Partnership
Valley Forge Park Alliance
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Vancouver Audubon Society
Vast Horizons Music, Inc.
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Vermilionville Living History Museum
Vermont Conservation Voters
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Vinalhaven Land Trust
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Visit Moffat County / Moffat County Tourism Association
Visit Southern WV
VisitLEX
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Voyageurs National Park Association
Walker Basin Conservancy
Wallowa Land Trust
Ward 8 Woods Conservancy
Ward Walker 7 Oaks Ranch
Warm Springs Watershed Association
Washington Association of Land Trusts
Washington Conservation Voters
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Washington Trails Association
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Washington Wildlife Federation
Washington’s National Park Fund
Water Stone Outdoors
West Sound Cycling Club
West Virginia Environmental Council
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Land Trust
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
West Virginia Wilderness Coalition
Western Foothills Land Trust
Western Pocono Trout Unlimited
Westslope Chapter Trout Unlimited
Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC
Whatcom Land Trust
Whitted Bowers Farm
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance
Wildlife Management Institute
Willington Conservation Commission
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wilmington Rowing Center
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
Windham Regional Commission
Wisconsin Environment
Wissahickon Trails
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
Wood River Land Trust
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
WV Citizen Action Group
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Pathways
Wyoming Untrapped
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Yellowstone River Parks Association Inc
Yellowstone Safari Company
YMCA of the Rockies
York Land Trust