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 Horsemens 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 Sportsmens 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
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Student Conservation Association
Surfrider Foundation
The Archaeological Conservancy
The Brice Institute
The Conservation Alliance
The Conservation Fund
The Corps Network
The Cougar Fund
The Evangelical Environmental Network
The Garden Club of America, Inc.
The Lyme Timber Company
The Nature Conservancy

Regional

Accokeek Foundation
American Farmland Trust - Pacific Northwest
Assateague Coastal Trust
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Chesapeake Conservancy
Damascus Citizens For Sustainability
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Great Divide Pictures
Great Smoky Mountains Association
Kaniksu Land Trust
MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership
Montana Conservation Corps
Natchez Trace Parkway Association
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
New England Forestry Foundation
Nez Perce Trail Foundation
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Northern Forest Center
Northwest Youth Corps
Northwoods Alliance Inc.
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
Old Spanish Trail Association

Opacum Land Trust
Open Space Institute
Openlands
Partners in Forestry Coop
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Potomac Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Potomac Valley Audubon Society
Rock Creek Conservancy
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Santa Fe Trail Assoc
Singletrack Trails Inc.
Southeast Tourism Society
Southeastern Climbers Coalition
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Sustainable Northwest
The Anza Trail Foundation
The Lands Council
The Mountain Pact
Upper Saco Valley Land Trust
Western National Parks Association
Western Rivers Conservancy
Wild Salmon Center

State and Local

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
15 Minute Field Trips
1785 Inn
350 Maine
508 Main St

A Walk in the Woods
AdventureKEEN
Adventures on the Gorge
Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Alachua Conservation Trust
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 Latitute 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 Moshashuck
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.
Historic Madison, Inc
Historic Pullman Foundation
History Nebraska
Hoosier Environmental Council
HospitalityMaine
Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Idaho - Montana Chapter of American Society of
Landscape Architects
Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League
Illinois Environmental Council
Indiana Chapter ASLA
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Indiana Forest Alliance
Indiana Parks Alliance
Indigo Bluffs RV Park & Resort
Institute for Ecological Health
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
International Inbound Travel Association
Izaak Walton League - Cypress Chapter
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
James River Association
Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Jefferson County Democratic Party
Jefferson County Open Space
John Burroughs Association
Joshua’s Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc.
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Kansas Land Trust
Katmai Conservancy
Kennebec Land Trust
Kentucky Association of Convention and Visitors
Bureaus
Kentucky Travel Industry Association
Kern Audubon Society
Kestrel Land Trust
Kingsport Chamber
Kingston Greenways Association
LA Conservation Corps
Lafayette Flats Boutique Vacation Rentals
Lafayette Inn
Lake Charles/SWLA CVB
Lake Hopatcong Foundation
Land Trust of Napa County
Landmarks Illinois
LANI Foundation
League of Women Voters Iowa
Lemhi Regional Land Trust
Leominster Trail Stewards
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.
Linn County Conservation Board
Littleton Conservation Trust
Loon Echo Land Trust
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Los Angeles River State Park Partners
Los Padres ForestWatch
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group
Louisville Tourism
Lowcountry Land Trust
Lowell Natureworks
Malcolm X Heritage Trust
Maine Audubon
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Outdoor Brands
Maine Outdoor Coalition
Maine Outdoors
Maine Recreation and Parks Association
Maine Tourism Association
Mainspring Conservation Trust, Inc.
Manassas Battlefield Trust
Maple Street Bed and Breakfast
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Native Plant Society
Massachusetts Historical Society
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Mayfly Outdoors
Mayo Civic Association, Inc.
McKenzie River Trust
MCM Company, Inc.
Mendocino Land Trust
Miami Waterkeeper
Michigan Bed & Breakfast Assoc
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Mile High Youth Corps
Miles Partnership
Mill Basin Civic Association
Millennium Development
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Minnehaug Land Trust
Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands
Minnesota School Trust Lands Commission
Miriam's Inspired Skin Care
Missouri Life magazine
Missouri Parks Association
Missouri Prairie Foundation
MN House District 10B
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Molokai Land Trust
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation
Monson Conservation Commission
Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition
Montana Association of Land Trusts
Montana Outdoors Foundation
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area
Mormon Trails Association
Morris County Tourism Bureau
Mountain Mamas
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
MS Tourism Association
Musconetcong Watershed Association
Mystery Ranch
Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau
National Aquarium
National Aviation Heritage Alliance
National Pony Express Assoc.
Native Fish Society
Native Prairies Association of Texas
Natural Lands
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Nature for All
Natureresource Communications
NEMO Equipment, Inc.
Nevada Outdoor School
New Hampshire Audubon
New Hampshire Rivers Council
New Jersey Audubon
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New Jersey Recreation & Park Association
New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
New Mexico Archaeological Council
New Mexico Horse Council
New Mexico Wild
New River Conservancy
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Nisqually Land Trust
No Barriers USA
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
North Carolina Friends of State Parks
North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Coalition
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
North Cascades Institute
North Country Trail Association
North Florida Land Trust
North Shore Community Land Trust
North Shore Land Alliance
Northern Forest Canoe Trail
Northern Prairies Land Trust
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Northstar Canoes
Northwest Rafting Company
Northwest Watershed Institute
Norwell Conservation Commission
NW WI Equestrian Friends Network
NY/NJ Baykeeper
NYH2o
Ocmulgee Mounds Association
Ocmulgee National Park & Preserve Initiative
Ocmulgee Outdoor Expeditions, LLC
Ohio Mayors Alliance
Ohio Veterans Outdoors, Inc.
Opossum Creek Retreat LLC
Oregon Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects
Oregon Desert Land Trust
Oregon Equestrian Trails
Oregon Outdoors Coalition
Otsego County Conservation Association
Our Montana, Inc
Outdoor Afro
Outdoor Alliance California
Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
Over Mountain Victory Trail Association
Pacific Forest Trust
Pacific Northwest Trail Association
Pajarito Environmental Education Center
Park Rx America
Park Watershed
Parks & Trails New York
Parks California
Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN)
Pawtuxet River Authority
Peace River Audubon Society
Pee Dee Land Trust
Peninsula Open Space Trust
PennEnvironment
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society
Peoria Audubon Society
Petersburg Battlefields Foundation
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Pie Ranch
Piedmont Land Conservancy
Plakes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Platte Land Trust
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Prairie Rivers of Iowa
Preservation New Jersey
Preserve Arkansas
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
Public Land Solutions
Quimby Family Foundation
R& stories
Rangeley Area Chamber of Commerce
Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection
Rappahannock Tribe
Red Rooster Coffee House
Revolution House Media
Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition
Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
River Through Atlanta Guide Service
RiverLink
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Ruffwear
Rutabaga Paddlesports
Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Diego Audubon Society
San Diego Mountain Biking Association
San Juan Baca Country Horsemens
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Santosha on the Ridge
Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc.
Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO)
Save The Lakes Rhode Island
Save the Redwoods League
Save Scenic Galveston, Inc.
Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Scenic Virginia
Schuylkill Headwaters Association
Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
See Plymouth
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Sereia Films
Sevier County
Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
Sheridan Community Land Trust
Shine Beer Sanctuary & Bottleshop
Shirley Heinz Land Trust
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Skagit Audubon Society
Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
Smith River Alliance
Snake River Fund
Snowy Mountain Chapter Trout Unlimited #610
Soap Creek Outfitters LLC
Society for Historical Archaeology
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Sonoma Land Trust
Soul River Inc.
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
South Coast Tours
South Dakota Hotel & Lodging Association
South Florida Wildlands Association
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Southern Nevada Conservancy
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association
Speak Up Wekiva, Inc.
Spice Acres in the CVNP
St. Croix River Association
St. Mary’s River Watershed Association
Studio ray
Superior Hiking Trail Association
Susquehanna National Heritage Area
Tangled Up In Hue
Teens to Trails
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee College Democrats
Tennessee College Republican Committee
Tennessee Conservation Voters
Texas Land Conservancy
Texas Land Trust Council
The Carpenters’ Company
The Cultural Landscape Foundation
The Custer Beacon
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 Unwrapped
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Yellowstone River Parks Association Inc
Yellowstone Safari Company
YMCA of the Rockies
York Land Trust