



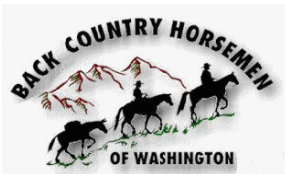
Recreational Boating  
Association of  
Washington



Washington  
Wildlife &  
Recreation  
COALITION



Protect America's Climbing





**Please pass ESSB 5843 – outdoor recreation – By Sens. Ranker and Parlette**

Dear Speaker Chopp:

Our organizations join together to urge you to pass ESSB 5843 out of the House as soon as possible. This bill implements two of the key recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Outdoor Recreation: Establishing an outdoor recreation sector lead in the Governor’s Office for the first time ever; and re-igniting funds for the “No Child Left Inside” grant program to get our youth outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about capitalizing on and growing an outdoor recreation sector that, according to an Economic Benefits Report directed by the Legislature, is already generating \$21.5 billion a year, and providing nearly 200,000 jobs all across both urban and rural communities of our state.

With ESSB 5843, we believe the state can better capitalize on untapped economic potential in the outdoor recreation sector in Washington. While states such as Utah have established entire offices to harness their outdoor recreation economy, we have not done so. We need someone at the top of our own executive branch to cut through the silos of government and grow the number of jobs and the amount of tourism revenue associated with outdoor recreation. ESSB 5843 can help us do just that.

We also need to put a greater focus on getting our children outside. Encouraging kids to experience the outdoors helps create future stewards of our natural assets, helps our young people get healthy and stay healthy, and gives students hands-on learning opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, ESSB 5843 is a low-cost, high rewards bill to help our outdoor recreation sector thrive and to get our young people outside. We hope you’ll pass it as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Northwest Marine Trade Association  
American Whitewater  
Recreational Boating Association of Washington  
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition  
Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance

Outdoors for All  
REI  
The Mountaineers  
The Nature Conservancy  
Ski Washington

Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association  
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
Friends of Washington State Parks  
Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition  
Northwest Outward Bound  
WA State Snowmobile Association  
YMCA of Greater Seattle  
Mountains to Sound Greenway  
Coastal Conservation Association

Access Fund  
Islandwood  
NatureBridge  
North Cascades Institute  
Darrington STEAM  
Project Rebirth  
Washington Bikes  
WA State Parks Foundation  
WA Trails Association