

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

September 25, 2018

Rep. Rob Bishop
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Markup of H.R. 5727, Emery County Public Land Management Act

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Outdoor Alliance and the outdoor recreation community appreciate the committee's attention to resolving public lands management issues in Utah, and, based on the productive changes reflected in the ANS and ongoing conversations with the bill's sponsors and other stakeholders, ask the committee to favorably report the bill.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of nine member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, and Colorado Mountain Club and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Our community greatly appreciates the strong conservation provisions contained in the bill—including nearly 530,000 acres of Wilderness, more than 336,000 acres of National Conservation Area, and Wild and Scenic protection for 63 miles of the Green River—for area which contain superlative outdoor recreation opportunities.

Additionally, we greatly appreciate the efforts reflected in the ANS to thoughtfully address the issue of fixed anchors in Wilderness in a manner that ensures the protection of wild areas and the opportunity to enjoy them sustainably.

Critically, we believe that the bill fully preserves the January 2017 settlement agreement to resolve a legal challenge affecting the BLM's 2008 Price Travel Management Plan.



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Moving forward and before the bill's passage, we believe that this bill must address outstanding concerns regarding protection for Ute reservation land, and we support Rep. Hanabusa's amendment to ensure tribal rights are not infringed upon.

We strongly oppose Rep. Gosar's amendments to remove or weaken core conservation provisions in the bill, including removing Wild and Scenic designation for the Green River and limiting or removing mineral withdrawals for non-Wilderness areas, and believe these changes would destroy carefully wrought compromises reflected in the bill and essential for maintaining our community's support.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Rep. Curtis and Sen. Hatch to address the concerns of the outdoor recreation community, and believe passing this bill through committee is an appropriate step toward resolving remaining outstanding issues.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Zachary Leich-Huey, Interim Executive Director, Access Fund
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Lee Davis, Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club

