

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

April 10, 2018

Rep. Tom McClintock
Chair, House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Colleen Hanabusa
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Legislative hearing on H.R. 1791, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act

Dear Chairman McClintock and Ranking Member Hanabusa:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to thank you for scheduling a hearing for H.R. 1791, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act, and to offer our enthusiastic support for this legislation.

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.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is an outdoor paradise stretching from the Seattle to Ellensburg. It includes 1,600 miles of trails, excellent whitewater runs, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, rock climbing routes, and mountain biking opportunities. The Greenway is accessed by members of all of our organizations to enjoy these activities, and is an important driver of Washington's recreation economy.

National Heritage Area designation would help the different land agencies in the area better collaborate on management – from trail maintenance to trailhead parking and educational resources. This would have a significant positive impact for this area that is experiencing increasing popularity and use.

Designation would also promote local economic growth from tourism and outdoor recreation, and provides a flexible strategy to encourage residents, government



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agencies, nonprofit groups and private partners to collaboratively plan and implement projects to preserve a landscape, without affecting private property rights.

In spring of 2015, more than 3,100 of our Washington state members signed a petition in support of National Heritage Designation.

In short, the Mountains to Sound Greenway is integral to outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest and we support National Heritage Area designation to help protect this resource. Attached, please see, as well, a map depicting some of the exemplary outdoor recreation opportunities found in the Greenway.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Brady Robinson, 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
Scott Robson, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club



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Mountains To Sound Greenway National Heritage Area

