

**TO: Cindy Whaley, Chair**

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**

**RE: No Child Left Inside Program- Supplemental Budget Request**

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the No Child Left Inside Steering Comm. we thank Washington State Parks for your leadership and seek an increase in funding as part of your 2020 supplemental budget request

According to the CDC: Children spend 6+ hours in front of screens per day, hunting and angling has decreased by 22% since 2009 and add to this one in 10 Washington youth aged 10-17 are obese.

The solution to this is making sure the No Child Left Inside Program is funded at a robust level as we have seen that children increase their science test scores by 27% through outdoor education programming. Outdoor Activities have been proven to increase cognitive function and the Outdoor Recreation Economy contributes $26.2 billion to Washington Economy

The No Child Left Inside Program has served over 20,000 Washington youth since its inception in 2016. It has shown wide geographic diversity and the public funding has been matched by private funds dollar for dollar. In this current cycle the Recreation Conservation Office has already received over $8 million in grant applications for $1.5 in funds. This highlights the need and showcases the public’s interest and engagement in the No Child Left Inside program. Please make a sound and smart investment for the future of Washington’s children by investing more in the No Child Left Inside Program.

Sincerely,

No Child Left Inside Steering Advisory Committee.

**REI**

**The Mountaineers**

**Naturebridge**

**IslandWood**

**North Cascades Institute**

**YMCA of Greater Seattle**

**Washington Trails Association**

**Mountains to Sound Greenway**

**Glacier Peak Institute**

**Northwest Outward Bound**