

Washington Outdoor Alliance

Access Fund • American Alpine Club • American Whitewater • El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club
• Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance • The Mountaineers
Washington Climbers Coalition • Washington Trails Association

April 25, 2016

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers
203 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rogers,

The Access Fund, the American Alpine Club, American Whitewater, El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Mountaineers, Washington Climbers Coalition and Washington Trails Association - all human powered recreation organizations in Washington State - come together as Washington Outdoor Alliance. As a coalition, we work on issues relating to recreation, access and conservation, and represent more than 34,000 members who recreate on public lands. We write you today to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act, H.R. 4665.

Our organizations are thrilled to see this breakthrough legislation, which ensures the outdoor recreation economy, including outdoor industry jobs and our economic impact, are measured by the federal government and accounted for as part of the national Gross Domestic Product.

We are proud that our home state—through your and Congressman Reichert's leadership—is leading this bipartisan legislation, which would inform policy makers and business leaders on the jobs created, and the consumer spending driven by, the outdoor recreation economy. As you know, the federal government, through research conducted at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), currently doesn't measure the economic impact of outdoor recreation, despite independent estimates that this sector generates \$646 billion in consumer spending each year and supports 6.1 million jobs.

We hope this legislation will enhance efforts to improve federal and local recreation policy. This will enable us to continue to support our land agencies in their work to get people outdoors on our public lands and protect these special places for future generations.

Going forward, please let us know how we can support you on this issue.

Best regards,

Gus Bekker, *President*, El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club
Eddie Espinosa, *Western Manager*, American Alpine Club
Katherine Hollis, *Conservation and Advocacy Director*, The Mountaineers
Andrea Imler, *Advocacy Director*, Washington Trails Association
Yvonne Kraus, *Executive Director*, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Thomas O'Keefe, *Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director*, American Whitewater
Matt Perkins, *Board Member*, Washington Climbers Coalition
Joe Sambataro, *Northwest Regional Director*, Access Fund

cc: John McCauley, *Regional Director*, Outdoor Alliance

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