

April 8, 2024

**The Honorable Charles Schumer**

Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell**

Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned companies, we write to thank you for your support of local parks, recreation, and conservation efforts in communities across the country, and to urge your support for the expedient passage of the Outdoors for All Act as part of an outdoor recreation package.

Our companies recognize the unparalleled impacts that access to recreation opportunities and outdoor spaces have on people's lives. When parks are more readily accessible, individuals benefit from improvements to their social, physical and mental health. Local environmental quality outcomes benefit from green spaces providing stormwater management benefits, increased tree canopy cover and healthy habitats for diverse animal and plant species. Further, local economies benefit from a combination of all these factors.

In fact, according to 2023 data from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), **local park and recreation agencies generated more than \$201 billion in economic activity and supported more than 1.1 million jobs** in 2021.<sup>1</sup> This figure, while significant, only accounts for the direct impact of local agencies. Zooming out further, 2023 data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) finds that **the broader outdoor recreation economy generated roughly \$1.1 trillion in economic activity and created nearly 5 million jobs** in 2022.<sup>2</sup> BEA has researched the economic output of our sector for nearly a decade, and this is the first time this figure has crossed \$1 trillion.

While the growth of our sector is something to be proud of, the benefits of park and recreation are not spread evenly in communities across the U.S. In fact, NRPA finds that **roughly 29 percent of U.S. residents say they do not live within a walkable distance of at least one local park or recreation facility**.<sup>3</sup> With people who use parks and open spaces being three times more likely to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f568e0ca499743a08148e3593c860fc5/2023-economic-impact-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/orsa1123.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/257fe28053c6420786927fcffc2f9996/2023-engagement-report.pdf>

achieve recommended levels of physical activity than non-users, the fact that this gap is so significant – nearly 1 in every 3 Americans without walkable park access – is alarming.

Thankfully, the Outdoors for All Act will address this challenge, working to ensure that future generations have access to quality parks and green spaces and the social, physical and mental health benefits they provide. Outdoors for All will formally codify the Department of Interior’s Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) into federal law and increase its impact by including communities in the 25,000-50,000-population size, as well as all indigenous communities, as eligible.

In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, Outdoors for All has advanced out of both the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee as a part of broader outdoor recreation packages – the America’s Outdoor Recreation Act (AORA) and the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act respectively. We strongly support the work of committee leaders in both chambers to craft and advance these bipartisan packages.

**We now urge congressional leadership to build on this progress and advance an outdoor recreation package that includes the Outdoors for All Act to full passage in 2024.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

The Toro Company  
REI Co-op  
Greenfields Outdoor Fitness Inc.  
PlayCore  
Abbaté Designs  
Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects  
EPIC Outdoor Cinema  
PlayPower Inc.  
Agora Partners  
Clark Condon

ETM Associates LLC  
Site Design Group Ltd.  
SALT Landscape Architects  
RHA Landscape Architects-Planners Inc.  
Recreation Results  
PROS Consulting Inc.  
Potrero Group LLC  
MIG Inc.  
Landscape Structures Inc.

**Cc:**

Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Chair Joe Manchin  
Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Ranking Member John Barrasso  
Senate National Parks Subcommittee Chair Angus King  
Senate National Parks Subcommittee Ranking Member Steve Daines  
House Natural Resources Committee Chair Bruce Westerman  
House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva  
House Federal Lands Subcommittee Chair Tom Tiffany  
House Federal Lands Subcommittee Ranking Member Joe Neguse