

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
Committee
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) and its more than 1,300 members, I write to express our strong support for H.R.823, the "Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act," also known as the CORE Act. We are proud of all those who've supported and helped shape this bill and particularly appreciate the leadership of Representative Joe Neguse, who is the lead House sponsor.

OIA is a membership-driven trade organization for the outdoor industry, which is an \$887 billion industry supporting 7.6 million direct jobs. We work to help policymakers from both sides of the aisle understand how important it is to protect public lands, make sure everyone can experience all that the outdoors have to offer, and find solutions to issues that are critical to the future of the industry and to millions of Americans who value outdoor recreation. In Colorado alone, our industry supports 229,000 jobs across the state and generates \$28 billion in consumer spending and \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue. These statistics help demonstrate why this legislation is so timely and important to OIA, to our members, and to all Americans.

This legislation is the product of thoughtful and meticulous engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders, including businesses, communities, and elected officials in the region. The CORE Act is a very forward-thinking bill that establishes new recreation and conservation management areas that preserve existing outdoor uses, such as hiking and mountain biking. Specifically, it would also protect nearly half a million acres of public lands across Colorado, including some of the most beloved public lands in the state that are renowned for their unsurpassed recreation, scenery, wildlife, watersheds, and historic values.

And finally, the CORE Act is incredibly important for our members because it not only supports recreation and protect important places, it also honors the history of Colorado's recreation economy through its protection of Camp Hale. As you know, during World War II, Camp Hale was where the 10th Mountain Division trained – mastering rock climbing and downhill and cross-country skiing. These veterans also helped popularize and launch Colorado's skiing, conservation, and outdoor recreation cultures.

The CORE Act shows what's possible when people come together with a shared goal of protecting public lands as way to improve the environment, grow our economy, and make our communities healthier and happier. We look forward to working together with policymakers and all stakeholders to help move this important legislation toward enactment.

Sincerely,

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy J. Roberts". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Amy Roberts
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association