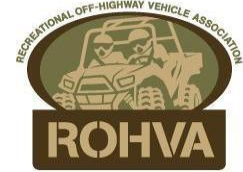




**MOTORCYCLE  
INDUSTRY  
COUNCIL®**



November 29, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural  
Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural  
Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: The EXPLORE Act**

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)<sup>1</sup>, the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)<sup>2</sup>, and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)<sup>3</sup> – collectively known as the Associations - we applaud your leadership for introducing the EXPLORE Act. This comprehensive legislation will help create additional opportunities for motorized access to federal recreational lands, improve recreation infrastructure, support local communities, and bolster our nation's economy.

The introduction of the EXPLORE Act is timely and comes on the heels of the latest [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) report, which showed that in 2022, the outdoor recreation economy generated \$1.1 trillion in economic output, comprised 2.2% of U.S. GDP, and supported 5 million jobs — 3.2% of all employees in the country. Outdoor recreation has been proven to boost the health of the economy and Americans, and access to public lands and trails is crucial for millions of ATV, dirt bike, and side-by-side riders and drivers to enjoy the outdoors.

There is much to support in this broad-based legislation that seeks to improve recreational opportunities across all federal land management agencies. Specifically, the Associations support provisions intended to identify, improve, and sustainably increase recreational opportunities on public lands. These provisions include a better understanding of recreational visitation patterns, increasing/improving broadband connectivity at developed recreation sites, improving parking and camping near recreational trails and areas, modernizing and improving accessible trails, and increasing youth participation in outdoor recreation.

The Associations also support the establishment of a Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), which will help federal land management agencies work together to address maintenance backlogs, infrastructure work delays, and other issues, leading to improved and expanded recreational access for millions of Americans.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing several hundred manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle parts, accessories and related goods, and allied trades.

<sup>2</sup> The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers, dealers, and distributors of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the United States. SVIA's primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ATVs.

<sup>3</sup> The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a national, not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs – sometimes referred to as side-by-sides or UTVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA is also accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to serve as the Standards Developing Organization for ROVs. More information on the standard can be found at <https://rohva.org/ansi-standard/>.

Further, provisions that require the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to "...seek to create additional opportunities, as appropriate, for motorized and nonmotorized access and opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Chief of the Forest Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management," provide clear Congressional direction that recreation will continue to be a foundational use of Forest Service and BLM lands as provided for in the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Finally, we would like to highlight our support for the inclusion of the Military and Veterans in Parks Act (MVP Act), which promotes and enhances outdoor recreation opportunities for veterans and active service members. The MVP Act would help veterans' physical and mental health, especially those with accessibility issues, by expanding and improving recreational and trail opportunities on federal lands. Not only would the MVP Act allow veterans safe and accessible use of public lands, but it would also broaden employment opportunities for veterans, many of whom have experience and interests that align well with natural and cultural resource lands management.

Passage of the EXPLORE Act will help ensure that our nearly \$50 billion powersports industry, and the recreation economy generally, continues to grow and serve our ever-expanding constituencies. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to working with you and your staff throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Schloegel  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

cc: Vivian Moeglein, Majority Staff Director, House Committee on Natural Resources  
Lora Snyder, Minority Staff Director, House Committee on Natural Resources