June 30, 2026

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

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, Chairman Tiffany, and Ranking Member Neguse:

On behalf of Mountain Capital Partners (MCP), I write in strong support of H.R. 9248, the Recreation Permitting Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Jeff Hurd (R-CO) and Chris Deluzio (D-CO).

On behalf of Mountain Capital Partners (MCP), I am pleased to write in support of H.R. 9248, the Recreation Permitting Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Jeff Hurd and Chris Deluzio.

Mountain Capital Partners is the third-largest ski resort company in the United States by number of resorts, owning and operating 15 destinations across the United States and two in Chile. With a business model centered on family-friendly, community-based ski areas, MCP is committed to making outdoor recreation more affordable and accessible, with lift tickets starting at just $9 at many of our resorts. Our portfolio includes ski resorts, mountain biking, golf, hospitality, and other year-round recreation assets that collectively generate more than $7 billion in annual economic activity and support approximately 6,500 employees worldwide.

Many of our resorts operate on or adjacent to National Forest System lands under long-term special use permits, making the U.S. Forest Service one of our most important partners in expanding outdoor recreation opportunities and serving millions of visitors each year. MCP currently has more than $3.5 billion in planned capital investments, including numerous projects on public lands that will improve recreation infrastructure, enhance visitor experiences, expand public access, create jobs, and strengthen rural economies.

Developing and maintaining world-class recreation facilities requires substantial long-term capital investment. Major projects often include new chairlifts, terrain expansions, snowmaking systems, guest facilities, employee housing, transportation improvements, utilities, and other infrastructure that benefit millions of visitors and surrounding communities. Several of our current and future projects exceed the

$200 million investment threshold required for eligibility under the FAST-41 program, making the Recreation Permitting Improvement Act directly relevant to the communities we serve.

Importantly, FAST-41 participation is entirely voluntary. Nothing in this legislation requires project sponsors to utilize the program, nor does it change the substantive environmental review required under federal law. Projects that qualify may simply choose to participate in a process designed to improve coordination among federal agencies, establish greater transparency, provide more predictable permitting schedules, and improve accountability throughout project reviews.

Mountain Capital Partners has experienced firsthand the value of collaborative relationships with local Forest Service personnel. On several projects, proactive communication and regular coordination helped identify issues early, resolve questions efficiently, and keep projects moving while maintaining full compliance with all applicable environmental requirements.

Unfortunately, those experiences are not consistent across every national forest. The permitting process often varies significantly depending upon staffing levels, available resources, and local administrative practices. As a result, comparable recreation projects can experience dramatically different review timelines despite involving similar environmental analyses and regulatory requirements.

For companies making investments that are planned years in advance and financed over decades, predictability is essential. Delays in permitting can postpone construction seasons, increase project costs, defer job creation, and postpone improvements that would benefit both the recreating public and surrounding communities.

H.R. 9248 does not weaken the National Environmental Policy Act, reduce opportunities for public involvement, or alter the responsibilities of federal agencies. Rather, it makes available a proven project management framework that has successfully improved coordination and transparency for nationally significant infrastructure projects across multiple sectors.

As demand for outdoor recreation continues to grow, providing qualifying recreation projects with the option to participate in FAST-41 is a practical and measured step that will encourage continued investment in America's recreation infrastructure while preserving the environmental safeguards that protect our public lands.

Mountain Capital Partners appreciates the Committee's leadership on recreation and public lands policy and respectfully urges favorable consideration of H.R. 9248.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Coleman

James Coleman
Chief Executive Officer
Mountain Capital Partners