



May 19, 2020

Chairman Peter Defazio
2165 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Sam Graves
2165 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The American Motorcyclist Association represents off-highway recreational interest throughout the nation. We are requesting that HR. 5797, "The Recreational Trails Program Full Funding Act of 2020," sponsored by U.S. Reps. Peter Welch of Vermont and John Curtis of Utah, be included in the transportation reauthorization bill being drafted in your committee. Without Congressional approval before Sept. 30, the program is at risk of going dormant, creating a huge void for both recreational trail development and critical ongoing maintenance projects.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcycling community. We represent the interests of millions of on- and off-highway motorcyclists. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

For more than a quarter-century, the RTP has been a key source of funding for recreational trails nationwide. Based on the "user-pay, user-benefit" model of the federal Highway Trust Fund, the RTP is exclusively funded with gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles. The RTP is currently funded at \$84 million a year, but it is estimated that federal gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles amount to more than \$270 million annually. H.R. 5797 would correct this inequity and return more of these fuel tax dollars to trail-based recreation.

It is also worth noting that, while the RTP provides funding for motorized and nonmotorized trails alike, it is administered by the individual states, who select and approve specific projects for funding. By law, 30 percent of the funding is allocated to motorized trails; 30 percent goes to nonmotorized trails; and 40 percent goes to mixed-use trails. To see funding for projects in each state, visit <https://arra-access.com/states> and click on the state you're interested in. You also will find other informative materials there that highlight the great work that has been done across the country, thanks to your past support.

Thank you for your consideration. It is absolutely critical that H.R. 5797 be included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Sayre".

Michael Sayre
Director of Government Relations
American Motorcyclist Association