



**MOTORCYCLE
INDUSTRY
COUNCIL.**

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), represents more than 700 companies in the motorcycle industry, including manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and allied trades in the powersports industry. We are a nearly \$40 billion industry with more than 12.2 million motorcycles in use across the country. The fastest growing sector of new motorcycle sales in the United States is dual sport bikes which are used for on-road and off-road riding on trails,

We are writing to request that you include the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act, H.R. 5797, in your upcoming surface transportation reauthorization package.

Since 1991 the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has funded trail development and maintenance across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The RTP exists within the Transportation Alternatives Program and provides funding for motorized and nonmotorized trails alike. It utilizes gas taxes paid by off-highway recreational interests and is administered by 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 support materials and funding for projects in each state, visit <https://arra-access.com/states> and click on the state you're interested in.

The amount of gas tax paid by non-highway recreation far exceeds the amount of funding provided to non-highway interests. The non-highway vehicle fuel taxes which fund the program have been capped and held constant for nearly a decade at \$84 million, even as the estimates of non-highway vehicle fuel taxes paid have increased to an estimated \$270 million. HR 5797 seeks to correct the RTP funding shortfall to ensure states can expand their recreational trails.

We appreciate your consideration of adding H.R. 5797 to the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have, and we welcome the opportunity to testify before the committee about the importance of RTP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott P. Schloegel".

Scott P. Schloegel
Senior Vice President Government Relations