



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 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs - also known as side-by-sides) manufactured or distributed in North America. With millions of ROVs in use across the country, it is critical that there be established riding areas and trail networks for Americans to utilize.

It is critical that the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act, H.R. 5797, be included in your upcoming surface transportation reauthorization package. RTP exists within the Transportation Alternatives Program and provides funding for motorized and nonmotorized trails alike. It 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 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.

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 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 and maintain their recreational trails.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue. It is essential that H.R. 5797 be included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. We would also welcome the opportunity to testify before the committee about the importance of RTP.

Sincerely,

Scott P. Schloegel
Senior Vice President Government Relations