



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 Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the United States. SVIA's major goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs. With millions of ATVs in use across the country, it is critical that there be adequate infrastructure and trail networks in place for riders to access.

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. 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.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and the opportunities that exist for expanding the Recreational Trails Program. 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,

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

Scott P. Schloegel  
Senior Vice President Government Relations