**Partners – Support RTP By Sending Letters From Your Organizations**

NOHVCC State Partners always answer the call and we need your help once again! The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) faces a crucial time as the program is at risk of going dormant without Congressional approval before September 30th. Below is a letter prepared by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA). The letter is primarily addressed to relevant committee leaders and requests “…that HR 5797, “The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020” sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation reauthorization bill…”

It is important to note that while individual letters to Congress are important, this effort is primarily focused on getting clubs and associations to send organizational letters of support. If you have the authority to send the letters on your club’s letterhead, please do. If you need to consult the club’s board of directors or go through some other process before the letter can be signed and sent, please start that process ASAP.

MIC/SVIA/ROHVA and other OHV organizations with a Washington, D.C. presence are currently advocating for the continuation of RTP and these letters will be used to support those efforts.

If you send a letter, please email it to the following House of Representatives staff and industry partners:

helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov

jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov

michael.falencki@mail.house.gov mmairena@ROHVA.org

cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov sschloegel@ROHVA.org

trailhead@nohvcc.org

It is important that you copy staff from ROHVA (email addresses provided) on your emailed letters as well as trailhead@nohvcc.org. Also, please feel free to contact NOHVCC staff at trailhead@nohvcc.org with any questions.

You can download a Word version of the sample letter [here](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1056zRNKatKXxOyL4EgepUN2gtc1CJQRd) – or you can use the sample letter below if you prefer to copy and paste:

(Your Letterhead)

May \_\_, 2020

Chairman Peter Defazio Ranking Member Sam Graves

2165 Rayburn Building 2165 Rayburn Building

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves:

(Insert name of organization) represents off-highway recreational interest in (Insert State/Region). We are writing to request that HR 5797, “The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020” sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation reauthorization bill currently being drafted in your committee. Without Congressional approval before September 30th, the program is at risk of going dormant, creating a huge void for recreational trail development and maintenance funding.

For more than a quarter-century the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has been the key source of funding for recreational trails across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Based on the “user-pay, user-benefit” model of the Highway Trust Fund, the RTP is funded from gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles. The RTP is currently funded at $84 million annually but it is estimated that federal gas taxes paid by nonhighway recreational vehicles amounts to more than $270 million annually. HR 5797 would correct this inequity and return more of the gas tax dollars for off-road recreation.

It is worth noting that the RTP provides funding for motorized and non-motorized trails alike and is administered by the states who select the projects to fund. By law, 30% of the funding goes to motorized trails, 30% goes to non-motorized trails, and 40% goes to mixed-use trails in the states. To see funding projects in each state, you can visit https://arra-access.com/states/ and click on the state you’re interested in. You will also find other informative materials on the site that highlight the great work that has been done with trails across the country, thanks to your past support.

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

Sincerely,