

**Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association**

Lisa Chissus  
29 Country Club Drive SW  
Lakewood, WA 98498  
Cell: 253 307 7777  
[waexec@pnw4wda.org](mailto:waexec@pnw4wda.org)



**March 30, 2020**

**Re: RTP Full Funding Act of 2020**

**Chairman Peter Defazio**  
2165 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Ranking Member Sam Graves**  
2165 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association contributes thousands of volunteer hours each year to maintain and develop Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails in Washington, Oregon, & Idaho. We collaborate with state and federal agencies to keep our trails open not just for OHV users, but these same trails are also used by hikers, bikers, motorcyclists, and horseback riders. 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.

Thank you for your consideration. It is absolutely critical that HR 5797 be included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill. These have been challenging times for us all and our passion for getting outdoors to enjoy our public lands is not just an economic stimulus, it is helping us to keep our peace of mind!

Sincerely,

Lisa Chissus  
WA Exec Director