

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 1, 2021

Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on T&I  
U.S. House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Chairman DeFazio:

As you work on putting together a strong, climate- and equity-focused reconciliation package, we ask that you ensure the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) receives the \$147 million included in the INVEST Act and passed by the House of Representatives.

The Senate bipartisan infrastructure bill left the RTP completely untouched, relegating it to stagnant funding once again. According to the recently released Federal Highway Administration report, the nation's trails community currently contribute \$281 million in tax revenue each year, yet for the last ten years the program has been held at flat funding of only \$84 million. From an equity and climate standpoint, the budget reconciliation represents an opportunity to invest in our nation's recreational trails for the first time in nearly a decade.

The benefits delivered by the RTP since 1991 are remarkable. It has funded more than 30,000 projects across the country, offering safe and healthy opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing, motorcycling, snowmobiling, OHVing, horseback riding and more. It supports urban, suburban, and rural trails that benefit people of all incomes and physical abilities across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It is vital to the nation's outdoor recreation industry, which yields \$788 billion in economic output annually and supports 5.2 million jobs.

Seventy percent of RTP funding is reserved for non-motorized and mixed-use trails, and funds can be used for climate-friendly projects such as charging stations for the growing numbers of electric bikes, motorcycles, ATVs, ROVs and other recreation vehicles. This program will continue to play a critical role in the energy transition as well as the growth of climate friendly communities and modes of transportation.

There is clear benefit to ensuring states and localities can access the funds needed to expand their active trail networks, ensure outdoor recreation is a part of the clean energy transition, provide safe and healthy outdoor spaces for all communities, and encourage greater carbon-free modes of transportation. We ask that the reconciliation package include funding for the RTP that brings it up to the \$147 million per year included in the INVEST Act.

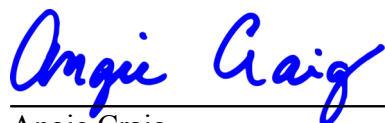
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress




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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



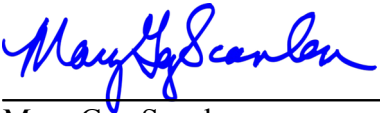
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress