



COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Co-Chairs:
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IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED BY ALL TRAIL ENTHUSIASTS! UPDATE – ADDITIONAL ACTION NOW

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) needs all trail organizations and trail enthusiasts to take action immediately to continue and to expand the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the national trails assistance program that aids all trail activities nationwide through use of federal non-highway recreational fuel taxes.

We had a huge victory last year when the Congress instructed the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop an estimate of fuel tax generated through non-highway recreational activities and included RTP in the Senate's **next-gen** surface transportation program. Now the door is open to including RTP in key legislation likely to be enacted this year.

We need your immediate help. Please take these actions:

- approve your organization's listing on our letters to Congressional leaders (attached). Unless we hear from you by COB tomorrow, 4/7, you'll be listed;
- write letters on your own letterhead to these same Congressional leaders urging inclusion of RTP provisions in the major initiatives now under way – FAST reauthorization, a broad national infrastructure initiative and additional COVID-19 recovery bills. Use the CRT letters as models;
- write to your own U.S. Representative and those Members with strong relations to your organization and ask them to cosponsor HR 5797, the Recreational Trails Full Funding Act. We have 11 champions and we need 50+. Interested Members in the House should contact Alex Piper (Welch) at Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov or Jake Bornstein (Curtis) at Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov;
- write our Senate champions thanking them for being sponsors of S. 1527 and urging action this Congress.

Since 1991, RTP has provided funding to states to develop and maintain outdoor recreational trails, allowing millions of American families to enjoy activities such as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and 4-wheel driving. 25,000+ projects have been completed in all states and the District of Columbia and benefit not only the recreational trail enthusiasts paying the taxes but all trail activities.

RTP's successes are visible through CRT's website (www.rectrails.org) which includes infographics explaining the RTP program and links to key data, including information about completed projects in each state.

And use the next two weeks to meet with your federal elected officials at home on RTP and its importance to your members. Share your actions with us at CRTLeadership@rectrails.org. **THANKS!!**

April 8, 2020

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

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The nation's recreational trails community fully supports HR 5797 which strengthens and extends the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP Full Funding Act of 2020 would ensure that the remarkable successes of RTP since its 1991 creation will continue to provide safe, enjoyable trails and access to the Great Outdoors for tens of millions of Americans. The measure requires a periodic Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Study, additional transparency for RTP project reports, and increased funding from existing non-highway gas tax revenues. The legislation affirms the Congressional commitment initially made in 1991 that the nation's trails should benefit from the federal taxes collected on fuels used for recreation on trails.

RTP is partner-based, uniting federal/state/local agencies, trail enthusiasts and the recreation industry. More than 25,000 completed RTP projects contribute to our economy, to our health and safety, and to greater access to our public lands.

HR 5797's bipartisan proponents seek to incorporate the elements of this legislation in upcoming legislative vehicles in Congress such as: reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation legislation (FAST Act reauthorization); comprehensive infrastructure legislation; and emergency response to the Coronavirus pandemic which is intended to stimulate jobs across a wide range of economic sectors. We ask your assistance in incorporating this important initiative as opportunities arise.

Thank you.

Adventure Cycling Association
American Council of Snowmobile Associations
American Hiking Society
American Horse Council
American Motorcyclist Association
American Trails
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access
Back Country Horsemen of America
BlueRibbon Coalition
Conservation Legacy
The Corps Network
Equine Land Conservation Resource
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators
International Mountain Bicycling Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners
National Association of State Park Directors
National Association of State Trail Administrators
National Park Hospitality Association
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council
National Recreation and Park Association
National Wildlife Federation
Off-Road Business Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
People for Bikes
Professional Trail Builders Association
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Society for Outdoor Recreation Professionals
SnowSports Industries America
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports and Fitness Association
Student Conservation Association
Tread Lightly!
United Four Wheel Drive Associations



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April 7, 2020



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The Hon. Amy Klobuchar
The Hon. James Risch
The Hon. Jeanne Shaheen
The Hon. Richard Burr
The Hon. Chris Van Hollen
The Hon. Jeff Merkley
The Hon. Margaret Wood Hassan
The Hon. Christopher Coons
The Hon. Angus King
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar, Risch, Shaheen, Burr, Van Hollen, Merkley, Hassan, Coons and King:

The nation's recreational trails community fully supports S1527 which strengthens and extends the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Your legislation would ensure that the remarkable successes of RTP since its 1991 creation will continue to provide safe, enjoyable trails and access to the Great Outdoors for tens of millions of Americans. The legislation affirms the Congressional commitment initially made in 1991 that the nation's trails should benefit from federal taxes collected on fuels used for recreation on trails.

RTP is partner-based, uniting federal/state/local agencies, trail enthusiasts and the recreation industry. More than 25,000 completed projects and programs contribute to our economy, to our health and safety, and to greater access to our public lands.

We urge S 1527's bipartisan proponents to incorporate elements of this legislation in any successor to the FAST Act surface transportation legislation, in any new comprehensive infrastructure legislation and in emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to stimulate job creation and economic recovery.

Thank you for your national leadership on recreational trails matters.

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