

June 16, 2020



## COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

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The Hon. Peter DeFazio, Chair  
The Hon. Sam Graves, Ranking Member  
US House of Representatives Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives DeFazio and Graves:

The nation's recreational trails community is pleased to support provisions of the INVEST in America Act which increase the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). We thank you for recognizing the value RTP brings to America's communities and expanding its capacity and reach. Created in 1991, RTP has yielded important successes across our nation for tens of millions who utilize trails in urban, suburban and rural areas for health, adventure, learning and access to special places including parks, lakes, mountains and more. All trail interests benefit, from hiking to biking, snowmobiling to cross country skiing, from OHV use to equestrians and more.

The RTP provisions of INVEST embrace the spirit of HR 5797, which the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) strongly supports. HR 5797's sponsors proposed to increase funding for the RTP after more than a decade of flat funding while demand for trails increased and with new documentation by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the economic importance of outdoor recreation: \$778 billion in annual gross economic output and 2.2% of the nation's GDP. RTP relies on partnerships which leverage federal gas tax with state and local funds and volunteerism by the trails community to produce successful projects.

We support the funding provisions for RTP included in the INVEST bill and thank you for considering our views.

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 Admin.  
International Mountain Bicycling Association  
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Assoc.  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Bicycle Greenway  
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council  
National Park Hospitality Association  
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  
Student Conservation Association  
Tread Lightly!  
United Four Wheel Drive Associations

cc: Members, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure