March xx, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio

Chairman

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

2165 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves

Ranking Member

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

2164 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

Thank you for considering the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act, H.R. 5797, in your upcoming surface transportation reauthorization package. We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and the opportunities that exist for expanding the Recreational Trails Program.

As you know, the amount of gas tax paid by non-highway recreation far exceeds the amount of funding provided to non-highway interests under the “user pay” structure of the RTP. The non-highway vehicle fuel taxes which fund the program have been capped and held constant for nearly a decade even as the estimates of non-highway vehicle fuel taxes paid have increased. Our bill seeks to correct the RTP funding shortfall to ensure states can expand their recreational trails.

In addition to expressing our strong support for the inclusion of our bill in a reauthorization package, we want to clarify the legislative intent of the bill. As you know, RTP exists within the Transportation Alternatives Program, which we strongly support. Our legislation is intended to increase funding of RTP, but not at the expense of the overall program. Rather, the desired outcome is for both RTP and Transportation Alternatives to grow in the reauthorization of the FAST Act.

We appreciate your work on a transportation package and your consideration for the inclusion of the RTP Full Funding Act. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alex Piper (Rep. Welch) or Jake Bornstein (Rep. Curtis) with our offices.

Sincerely,