

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

February 26, 2020

Rep. Deb Haaland
Chair, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Don Young
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Outdoor recreation community support for H.R. 4512, the Outdoors for All Act; H.R. 4236, the Reducing Waste in National Parks Act; and H.R. 3681, the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act

Dear Chair Haaland and Ranking Member Young:

Thank you for holding this hearing on a set of bills that have the potential to improve both conservation and the recreation experience on public lands and waters. The outdoor recreation community supports H.R. 4512, the Outdoors for All Act; H.R. 4236, the Reducing Waste in National Parks Act; and H.R. 3681, the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

H.R. 4512, the Outdoors for All Act

Outdoor recreation is the most common way in which Americans come to know their public lands and waters and develop a stewardship ethic. Recreation activities



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help provide a connection to place; personal and health benefits; community connection; and vibrant economies. Too many Americans, however, lack ready access to these opportunities. The Outdoors for All Act would create a dedicated funding source for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program to improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities in underserved communities, and we strongly support this bill.

H.R. 4236, the Reducing Waste in National Parks Act

Plastic waste in the outdoors is both an aesthetic and environmental problem, harming wildlife and even entering the human food chain.

In 2017, the administration abruptly reversed guidelines that allowed the National Park Service to ban the sale of single-use plastic water bottles in parks where possible. As a result of the original ban on plastic water bottles, Zion National Park in Utah, as an example, eliminated the sale of 60,000 disposable water bottles by installing filling stations and selling affordable reusable bottles in their concessions.

Restoring guidance allowing National Park units to establish sensible policies to reduce plastic waste is a simple way to improve the quality of the visitor experience and protect our natural resources.

H.R. 3681, the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act

For better or worse, a car is often the most important piece of a recreationist's gear. Auto emissions are also a major source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act takes a valuable step toward a zero-emissions-vehicle future by helping land management agencies make infrastructure investments to support this transition, which will be an important part of addressing climate change. Improving this necessary infrastructure will allow more people to choose zero-emissions vehicles, and the bill will also improve air quality and reduce emissions by encouraging the transition of agency fleet vehicles to alternative fuels.

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Thank you for considering these bills, which make valuable contributions to ensuring more Americans have ready access to outdoor recreation experiences; protecting our public lands and waters from plastics pollution; and improving air quality while providing support for a transition away from fossil fuel dependence.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Interim Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Todd Walton, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Mitsu Iwasaki, Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation

