OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

We are writing today to express our support to include full funding for the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) proposal in the budget reconciliation bill currently being discussed in Congress. The CCC would create thousands of jobs, bring new economic opportunity to communities across the country, and support critical outdoor recreation and conservation projects created by funding in the Great American Outdoors Act, while making our outdoor spaces more climate resilient and accessible.

This programs' predecessor, the Civilian Conservation Corps, created millions of jobs and helped rebuild the country during the Great Depression. On the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic fallout, revitalizing the CCC now would create countless new opportunities for those impacted by the pandemic to find meaningful employment and new career pathways, while rebuilding their community spaces to be even better than before. The $788 billion outdoor industry is a cornerstone of the American economy, and a fully-funded CCC would ensure the outdoors can continue to be a part of the country's economic success.

The CCC would also support the bipartisan and historic Great American Outdoors Act, which funds projects to renew and revitalize our parks and outdoor spaces and make outdoor recreation even more accessible. Outdoor recreation provides countless mental and physical health benefits and supports local economies, especially in rural communities, yet many of our nation's parks and green spaces are in desperate need of repair. The trained workforce created by the CCC would be able to execute these outdoor recreation projects, expand access to the outdoors for all Americans, and ensure the outdoors can be enjoyed for decades to come.

From wildfires in the Pacific Northwest to droughts in the Plains and floods in the South, climate change is having an impact on communities in every corner of the United States. As this growing threat continues to impact local, national, and global economies, the CCC would take concrete steps to embrace conservation, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and build climate resiliency in every community.

When the outdoors thrive, communities, individuals, and the economy thrive, as well. The Civilian Climate Corps would provide the resources to bring new jobs to struggling communities, open new career pathways for young Americans, support the outdoor recreation economy, and promote conservation to ensure the outdoors remain vibrant and healthy. As Congress continues to consider budget reconciliation legislation, we urge lawmakers to include robust funding for this job-creating and economy-building program.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring the outdoors remain a key part of the American economy.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Industry Association
American Sportsfishing Association
The Corps Network
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Forest Recreation Association
National Marine Manufacturers Assocation
National Park Hospitality Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association