Good Afternoon Chairman Pabon and members of the House Finance Committee,

I’m Stewart Lewis, Advocacy Coordinator for Outdoor Industry Association.

On behalf of OIA, the national trade association for suppliers, manufacturers and retailers in the $887 billion outdoor recreation industry, with more than 1200 members nationwide and over 200 here in Colorado, I am here to express OIA’s support for and request your vote in favor of Senate Bill 66.

Reauthorizing the Colorado Lottery will ensure a dedicated and sustainable stream of revenue that:
- Will continue to fund projects throughout the state to create trails and parks in local communities;
- Fund outdoor recreation facilities;
- Conserve land, water and wildlife habitat;
- All without using general fund dollars.

Your support of this bill will enhance Colorado’s outdoor recreation economy, which:
- Provides 229,000 jobs for Coloradans;
- Generates $28 billion in annual consumer spending in our state;
- And provides $2 billion in state and local taxes each year.

Additionally, a study by the Trust for Public Lands found that:
- Every $1 million invested in GOCO and the Conservation Trust Fund supports 17.2 jobs;
- GOCO and CTF leveraged additional contributions from federal, local, private and nonprofit sources at a ratio greater than 2:1 (GOCO: $2.31 for every dollar invested; CTF: $2.43 for every dollar);
- And GOCO’s School Yard Initiative has transformed 44 school yards that serve 18,000 young Coloradans in high-need communities.

In closing, this committee has the opportunity today to show the legislature’s commitment to a significant sector of the state’s economy and support our state’s unique outdoor recreation opportunities by voting in favor of SB 66.

Thank you, Chairman Pabon and thank you members of the committee.