



May 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing today to express our support for the *American Jobs Plan*. As some of the nation's leading outdoor industry companies, we are acutely aware of the impacts of climate change -- on the environment, our supply chains, people and families, and the local economies in which we operate. Last year, we joined together to launch the [Climate Action Corps](#) as a commitment to measure, set targets, and reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and share that progress annually with the public. Our long-term ambition as an industry is to be climate positive -- not only reducing our emissions, but removing more than we emit through nature-based projects. We recognize the risk of climate change to both our businesses and the environment. That is why we are taking immediate action within our own industry to mitigate that risk. But we also know the business community alone cannot address this threat -- our government needs to play a leading role.

We are particularly pleased President Biden's historic infrastructure proposal connects climate-smart policies and federal funding to every level of daily life. Through a new Civilian Climate Corps (CCC), a clean electricity standard, prioritizing nature-based infrastructure, and jumpstarting clean energy manufacturing, this blueprint is designed to make the necessary investments to combat the impacts of a changing climate and ensure the American economy can thrive.

Our companies are supportive of many aspects of the *American Jobs Plan*, but a few stand out as critical investments. First among them is the \$10 billion investment in a Civilian Climate Corps. Its predecessor -- the Civilian Conservation Corps was created in 1933 during the height of the Great Depression. Over the course of the program's 10-year run, it provided 3 million jobs and laid the groundwork for the state and federal conservation programs we know today. There are many parallels to draw to the world we live in today. Revitalizing the CCC would advance country's economic recovery and provide jobs, not to mention address the on-the-ground impacts of climate change, mitigate devastating wildfires, and help implement the sweeping Great American Outdoors Act enacted into law last year.



In addition to key investments in transportation infrastructure like bridges and roads, the proposal would also protect and restore nature-based infrastructure like public lands, forests, coasts, and waterways – spaces local communities and businesses rely on. This type of investment would bring climate-resiliency and protection from natural disasters like floods and wildfires. Additionally, over the past year, [more people](#) have turned to the outdoors to benefit their physical and mental health, including more women, urban dwellers, and ethnically diverse groups. With more resilient outdoor spaces, this trend can continue and our industry can grow and bring economic opportunity to communities in all 50 states.

The proposal also emphasizes environmental justice and equity, which is a critical component of any climate action policy, including a \$20 billion program to reconnect neighborhoods that were fractured by previous infrastructure projects and ensure new projects are community-driven and economically benefit historically underserved communities.

Additionally, the proposal includes funding for research and workforce development programs, clean energy manufacturing, and the electric vehicle industry. While we work to combat climate change, it is also important to consider communities that may be left behind. Targeted investments in manufacturing for new industries, like those included in the plan, will be an important part of the solution to alleviate hardships faced by traditional energy communities as the country transitions to a clean-energy economy. At the same time, the outdoor industry can also serve as a part of the solution by creating local jobs and generating economic development.

The outdoor industry has proven itself to be a resilient and powerful economic force for the nation. When the outdoors thrives, our industry thrives, and through critical funding for climate-smart policies, the *American Jobs Plan* would give our \$788 billion industry the opportunity to continue to grow and support the economy.

Sincerely,

Big Agnes  
Burton  
Hydro Flask  
K2 Sports  
Klean Kanteen  
MiiR

NEMO Equipment  
Oberalp North America  
Outdoor Afro  
REI Co-op  
Ruffwear  
The Orvis Company