



May 19, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair Portantino,

On behalf of California Outdoor Recreation Partnership and the Outdoor Industry Association, we urge you to pass **SB 45 - Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022** and **SB 624 - Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act** out of Senate Appropriations tomorrow.

We support SB 45 as we strongly believe in the bond's efforts around climate resiliency and the strategic restoration and stewardship of California's natural infrastructure over decades to come. Coming out of the pandemic, we are also in favor of the economic recovery behind the bond as it will reduce the statewide unemployment rate by funding employment opportunities for the California Conservation Corps and other wildfire prevention and conservation efforts.

We strongly support SB 624, which would add a new division to the Public Resources Code that explicitly establishes promoting environmental equity and outdoor access as a goal for all departments under the California Natural Resources Agency. Currently, there are a lack of job training and career pathway opportunities for employment at the Natural Resources Agency, and each department, board, conservancy, and commission within the agency, that allow for upward mobility within the agency. We believe in equitable hiring processes, workforce development, and visitation for user groups at all levels under our government. Supporting this bill will uphold California to ensure all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources.

As an industry, we are heavily focused on advocating to increase access for outdoor recreation. This includes funding for recreation infrastructure, including investments in parks, trail maintenance, transportation, education, new parks in under-served communities, public lands, private land conservatories, and waters. This also includes resource planning as well as climate resilience and adaptation for recreation infrastructure affected by fire, snow, flood, and coastal access. In this capacity, we look forward to further working with you and the California State Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Lyon".

Matt Lyon  
Board Chair  
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Harper".

Rich Harper  
Director of Government Affairs  
Outdoor Industry Association