

December 14, 2021

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

We are writing to express our support for robust funding for the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) and Department of the Interior, climate resiliency and outdoor restoration projects, and the transition to renewable energy to be included in the Build Back Better Act. These provisions would create economic opportunity for communities across the country and combat the impacts of climate change, which threatens our planet, our communities, and our economy.

The outdoor industry is already facing the consequences of climate change and we are taking concrete steps to reduce our carbon emissions and adopt climate-smart business practices. However, to truly move the needle on climate change, the federal government must do its part. The Build Back Better Act offers a historic opportunity to pass legislation that will ultimately reverse the worst effects of climate change and make progress on policies critical to the outdoor industry's success.

Specifically, we support the creation of and adequate funding for the CCC, which would create new opportunities for thousands of Americans to find meaningful employment and build new career pathways while restoring outdoor spaces, implementing the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), and supporting the \$689 billion outdoor industry. At the same time, for the CCC, GAOA, and other outdoor policies to have the most impact, the Department of the Interior must receive adequate funding to hire staff and implement new projects. As the Build Back Better Act continues to be debated in Congress, this robust funding must remain intact.

The reconciliation bill also includes important provisions to bolster climate resiliency and invest in natural solutions to climate change by helping farmers, ranchers, and landowners adopt climate-smart practices and reduce their emissions. It also includes efforts to increase access to the outdoors for everyone, regardless of where they live or who they are. Programs that make clean energy more accessible and widespread through incentives for families to shift to clean energy and assistance to create new clean energy jobs are another important part of the reconciliation bill. And as we rightfully transition to a clean energy economy, it is also critical to provide workforce training and support for traditional energy communities.

The Build Back Better Act is a wide-reaching piece of legislation, and while we might not agree on every provision or pay-for, our companies proudly stand behind the climate provisions included in the bill. With extreme weather events and rising temperatures already causing significant disruptions to supply chains and the way



people live their lives, it is clear why more Americans than ever say protecting the environment is important to them. Adopting these policies and addressing the growing threat of climate change will show the American people we hear them and are taking real action.

This bill presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take historic climate action that will have a lasting impact on the future of our country. For the sake of our planet, our communities, and the economy, Congress must ensure these climate provisions remain in the final language of the Build Back Better Act.

We look forward to working with lawmakers and the Biden administration to continue to strengthen the outdoor recreation economy while protecting and restoring the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Lise Aangeenbrug

**Executive Director Outdoor Industry Association** 

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