



## **NPCA urges support for H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors Act, and opposition to amendments**

June 8, 2020

Dear Senator:

Since 1919, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our more than 1.4 million members and supporters nationwide, we ask that you please vote “yes” for cloture and final passage of H.R.1957, the legislative vehicle for the Great American Outdoors Act.

Our national parks have long been suffering from neglect, with degraded trails, decaying water systems, leaky roofs, and many more infrastructure challenges. Together with other public lands, there is a \$20 billion deferred maintenance backlog that must be addressed, and current funding sources are insufficient to meet the need. The bill would address this issue with \$9.5 billion in funding dedicated from energy revenue over five years for priority repair and reconstruction projects. This bill does not just restore but also conserves our national parks, with \$900 million annually permanently dedicated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which protects our national parks and other public lands from incompatible and commercial development. LWCF also supports recreational facilities in communities throughout our country.

Our national parks are for all people to enjoy and should be ensured the access, protections and care they deserve. After lack of access to our public lands due to the pandemic, Americans yearn more than ever to enjoy them. They deserve to return to these special places knowing they will be restored and protected for years to come. As our economy suffers immensely, this bill would also provide much needed support for communities throughout the country including those that benefit from \$20 million in visitor spending annually that generates more than \$40 billion in economic activity and 329,000 jobs. Further, a just-released economic analysis shows that every \$1 million invested in LWCF could support between 16.8 and 30.8 jobs.

We also request opposition to all amendments. This bill has been developed over years of bipartisan negotiations and irrespective of the many merits of potential amendments, consideration could threaten passage of this important bill.



The Great American Outdoors Act is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve our national parks and provide opportunities to enjoy nature, wildlife habitat, and recreate for future generations.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Kristen Brengel  
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs