

THEODORE ROOSEVELT IV
ONE PIERREPONT STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

From east to west, America is home to incredible lands, waters, and cultural treasures. Now, more than ever, we are relying on our public lands to get outdoors, to connect with the world, to support jobs, and to strength our communities. In this time of uncertainty, we have been given a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect our public lands and waters for all generations to come.

I write to you today to urge swift passage and enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – legislation that will provide much needed support to the outdoor places we all depend on. This bill will fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), our nation’s most important conservation program, to ensure protection and increased access to public lands in every state and county in America. Additionally, GAOA will fund priority repairs in our National Parks and on other public lands to address an ever-growing backlog of maintenance needs.

This outstanding bipartisan legislation will ensure every American has access to the outdoors, no matter where they live. It will also help our communities and nation recover by creating jobs and economic growth across the country – in both cities and rural areas. Nationally, outdoor recreation contributes roughly \$778 billion in consumer spending and supports 5.2 million jobs. Moreover, economic analysis shows that every \$1 million invested in LWCF could support between 16 and 30 jobs, while national park funding in GAOA could support 100,000 jobs, \$17.5 billion in economic output, and contribute \$9.6 billion to the US GDP. At a time when small businesses are struggling, GAOA would provide much needed stimulus to get Americans outdoors and back to work.

Passing the Great American Outdoors Act would be taking a page from President Theodore Roosevelt's book: protecting the quintessence of who we are as Americans in the stewardship of our natural places, great and small. President Roosevelt set conservation as a priority - a duty - for a great and far-sighted nation in recognition that our natural bounty is the foundation for all else. Without it, we cannot prosper.

I am glad to see strong bipartisan support for GAOA in the House, Senate, and from the President. We are counting on you to protect and preserve our public lands. And we need your continued leadership to secure this monumental legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theodore Roosevelt IV". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Theodore Roosevelt IV