



Board of County Commissioners

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July 7, 2020

The Honorable Joe Neguse
United States House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Neguse,

In this time of public health emergency, our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities are more important than ever to our economy and our communities' wellbeing. We hope you will invest in these public treasures through full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and voting for the Great American Outdoors Act.

In the weeks and months to come, our nation's parks, trails, and outdoor spaces will be integral to our nation's coping and recovery. Great parks and green spaces make stronger, healthier communities. Everyone deserves access to the outdoors and the countless benefits parks provide. America's public lands bring us peace of mind and generate economic revenue - both will be critically needed to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our national, state and local parks, trails and public lands are a critical economic driver for communities big and small, urban and rural, across the nation. Across the nation, the travel and tourism industries have been taking a hit in the current crisis. **Investing now in full funding for LWCF will help with a strong long-term recovery for gateway communities and states that rely on visitors to public lands.** Specifically:

- America's outdoor recreation economy supports over 7.6 million jobs, contributes over [\\$887 billion](#) in annual economic output, and serves as the lifeblood for countless communities across the country.
- Every dollar spent on LWCF [returns \\$4 in economic value](#) from natural resource goods and services alone - over and above the economic benefit of the outdoor recreation economy and tourism.

Broadly-supported, the Great American Outdoors Act is directly relevant and ready to go. We urge Congress to move forward and pass this Act.

Investing in our public lands, and providing full, permanent funding for LWCF are low-cost economic stimulus strategies that will pay big dividends for communities across America. **Please vote for the Great American Outdoors Act.**

Sincerely,

Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Matt Scherr

Commissioner

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner