



November 10, 2022

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
United States Senate  
374 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support Organized Outdoor Recreation and Cosponsor the America's Outdoor Recreation Act, S.3266**

Dear Senator Hickenlooper,

I am writing to you on behalf of Angler's Covey, my Colorado-based business and the Coalition for Outdoor Access with a request that you cosponsor the America's Outdoor Recreation Act or "AORA" ([S.3266](#)).

The Coalition for Outdoor Access (COA) is a group of outdoor industry leaders in Colorado and nationwide who are advocating for laws and policies that support and encourage guided outdoor recreation and education activities on public lands and waters. COA believes in the value of transformative experiences in the outdoors for youth and adults alike.

In order to provide outdoor experiences on federal lands, our organizations and businesses are required to obtain permits from land agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. The permitting systems used by these agencies are outdated, unnecessarily complex, and labor intensive. These challenges make it difficult for land managers to issue permits even when the recreation activity is allowable. As a result, the public is limited in its ability to visit public lands with an outdoor leader and we are unable to grow our programs and contribute to the outdoor recreation economy—which is a significant driver of jobs and economic prosperity in Colorado.

To help address these issues, we encourage you to cosponsor the America's Outdoor Recreation Act. AORA would modernize the permitting process for organized outdoor recreation groups by:

- **Eliminating duplication** in the permitting system and decreasing processing times.
- **Increasing flexibility** for outdoor leaders by allowing them to offer a range of similar services.
- **Simplifying the permitting process** for trips involving multiple agencies by authorizing the agencies to issue a single multijurisdictional permit.
- **Increasing recreation opportunities** by allowing temporary permits to convert to long-term status with satisfactory performance.
- **Standardizing fees** among the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

On May 3, 2022, AORA was reported favorably by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with unanimous consent. We sincerely thank you for your vote in favor of AORA. We are writing now as a coalition of outdoor organizations to ask for your support in

cosponsoring AORA. We believe your support as a cosponsor will help to move this legislation that is so critical to our businesses and organizations in Colorado and nationwide.

Thank you for being a leader for the outdoors and for the outdoor industry in Colorado. Your leadership ensures generations of Coloradans—and all Americans—are able to enjoy the great outdoors. Together we are a force.

Sincerely,



David Leinweber  
Founding Chairman, Pikes Peak Outdoor  
Recreation Alliance  
Owner, Angler's Covey Inc.  
Colorado Springs, CO



Additional signatories:

John Lacroix  
Owner & Race Director  
Human Potential Running Series  
Arvada, CO

Jeannette Stawski  
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