



January 26, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Mountaineers, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The Mountaineers, based in Seattle, Washington and founded in 1906, is a nonprofit outdoor education, conservation, and recreation organization whose mission is “to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.” 1,200 skilled volunteers lead 3,200 outdoor education trips and courses annually for 15,000 members. Many of these trips and activities, including opportunities coordinated by our Kitsap and Olympia branches, connect outdoor enthusiasts to the forests, trails, and waterways of the Olympic Peninsula.

We are a passionate, engaged, and knowledgeable community that cares about the outdoors, and protects the outdoor experience for current and future generations. We’re committed to ensuring equitable and sustainable recreation access to the Northwest’s public lands and waters.

The Mountaineers supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the state of Washington.

Thank you for considering our full support for funding this important project to provide the recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to all that strive to experience all that the Olympic Peninsula has to offer.

Sincerely,

Betsy Robblee



**THE  
MOUNTAINEERS**

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