



January 16, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Natural Resources  
Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources  
Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Grijalva and Members of the Committee:

The [Coalition for Outdoor Access](#) (COA) would like to express strong support for the outfitting and guiding provisions in Title III of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act, H.R. 6492 ["EXPLORE Act"] that is scheduled to be marked up by the House Natural Resources Committee on January 17, 2024.

COA is a broad alliance of businesses and organizations with first-hand knowledge of the outfitter-guide permitting systems of the federal land management agencies. The Coalition came together in 2014 to improve the operation of these systems for the benefit of the agencies, the recreational landscapes they support, the organizations who provide facilitated recreational experiences on federal lands and waters, and for the members of the public who use these services. Our members include for-profit and nonprofit outfitters and guides, university recreation programs, volunteer-based clubs, and the conservation advocacy community. The COA Steering Committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

- [American Mountain Guides Association](#)
- [Angler's Covey](#)
- [Assoc. of Outdoor Recreation and Education](#)
- [The Mountaineers](#)
- [The Wilderness Society](#)
- [REI](#)
- [YMCA](#)

The outfitter-guide permitting provisions in Title III of the EXPLORE Act will enable more Americans to access and experience federal recreational lands and waters with the support of an outdoor leader, outfitter, or guide. The Title III provisions are based on the bipartisan Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act (SOAR Act) that has been endorsed by more than 100 recreation businesses and organizations across the United States (list on page 3).

We urge the Committee to favorably report sections 311-320 of Title III of the EXPLORE Act to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Outdoor Access Steering Committee:

Jeannette Stawski, Committee Chair  
Executive Director  
Assoc. of Outdoor Recreation and Education  
Ann Arbor, MI

Paul Sanford  
Director of Policy Analysis  
The Wilderness Society  
Washington, DC

Betsy Robblee  
Conservation and Advocacy Director  
The Mountaineers  
Seattle, WA

Matt Wade  
Executive Director  
American Mountain Guides Association  
Boulder, CO

Courtney Aber  
National Director  
YMCA BOLD and GOLD  
Seattle, WA

Jeremy Oyen  
Manager, National Field Operations  
REI  
Kent, WA

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

**The SOAR Act has been endorsed by a broad coalition of recreation organizations:**

Adventures 60 North  
Aerie Backcountry Medicine  
Alaska Alpine Adventures  
Alaska Charters and Adventures  
Alaska Guide Collective  
Alaska Rivers Company  
Alaska Sea Kayakers  
Alaska Wildland Adventures  
All Alaska Outdoors Lodge  
Alpenglow Expeditions  
America Outdoors Association  
America Walks  
American Alpine Club  
American Alpine Institute  
American Camp Association  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education  
American Mountain Guides Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
Angler's Covey  
Appalachian Mountain Guides  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Archery Trade Association  
Association for Experiential Education  
Association of Marina Industries  
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education  
Avid4 Adventure  
Babkin Charters  
Backcountry Bike and Ski  
Back Country Horsemen of America  
Bear Trail Lodge  
Big City Mountaineers  
Chicks Climbing and Skiing  
Choose Outdoors  
Chugach Outdoor Center  
Colorado Mountain School  
Colorado Outward Bound School  
Colorado River Outfitters Association  
Colorado Wilderness Corporate and Teams  
Colorado Wilderness Rides and Guides  
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions  
Dude Ranchers Association  
Estes Park Rock Climbing  
Exposure Alaska/MICA Guides  
Exum Mountain Guides  
Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association  
Holiday River Expeditions  
Idaho Mountain Guides  
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association  
Montana Outfitters and Guides Association  
Montana Wilderness School  
Mountain Skills Rock Guides  
Mountain Trip  
Nantahala Outdoor Center  
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds  
National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Outdoor Leadership School  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
New Mexico Council of Guides and Outfitters  
New Mexico Wild  
New River Mountain Guides  
New Wave Adventures  
No Barriers USA  
North Carolina Outward Bound School  
Onward and Upward  
Open Lands Consulting LLC  
Oregon Outfitters and Guides Association  
Outdoor Alliance  
Outdoors Alliance for Kids  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable  
Outdoor Research  
Outward Bound USA  
Pangea Adventures  
Peak Mountain Guides  
Red River Adventures  
REI  
Rising Tide Associates  
RV Dealers Association  
RV industry Association  
San Juan Mountain Guides  
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors  
Santa Fe Climbing Center  
Sawtooth Mountain Guides  
Seneca Rocks Climbing School  
Seward Tours and Sunny Cove Kayaking  
Sierra Mountain Center  
Sierra Mountain Guides  
Sierra Mountaineering International  
Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance  
Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures  
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals  
Specialty Equipment Marketing Association  
Suntoucher Mountain Guides  
The Ascending Path  
The Mountaineers  
The Mountain Guides  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
The Wilderness Society

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  
Kayak Adventures Worldwide  
Kennicott Wilderness Guides  
Kent Mountain Adventure Center  
Krog's Kamp on the Kenai River  
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce  
Lazy Otter Adventures  
Los Alamos Mountaineers  
Mazamas  
McCarthy River Tours and Outfitters  
Middle Fork Outfitters Association  
Moab Desert Adventures  
Montana Alpine Guides  
Montana Mountaineering Association

Transforming Youth Outdoors  
UnCruise Adventures  
Utah Guides and Outfitters Association  
Vetta Mountain Guides  
Washington Trails Association  
West Virginia Professional River Outfitters  
Western River Expeditions  
Western Spirit Cycling  
Wilderness Education Association  
Worldwide Outfitters and Guides Association  
Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association  
YMCA of Greater Seattle  
YMCA of Los Angeles  
YMCA of the USA