

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE WASHINGTON

March 31, 2025

Senator Marko Liias, Chair  
Senator John Lovick, Vice Chair  
Senator Bill Ramos, Vice Chair  
Senator Curtis King, Ranking Member  
Senator Keith Goehner, Assistant Ranking Member

Senate Transportation Committee  
P.O. Box 40466  
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Outdoor Alliance Washington writes to express our concern for the potential inequitable distribution of new gas tax revenue. Senate Bill 5801 increases the per gallon tax rate and generates new revenue, but it is our understanding that the current version would not direct a proportional amount of fuel taxes collected from nonhighway driving to manage recreation on federal, state, and local lands in Washington. We write to request changes to the Senate bill to fix tax inequities associated with the proposal.

Our groups have a strong interest in this issue. [Outdoor Alliance Washington](#) is a network of member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community in Washington and the thousands of Washingtonians who climb, paddle, mountain bike, hike, and enjoy coastal recreation on our state's public lands and waters. Our members include American Whitewater, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Mountaineers, Surfrider Foundation, Washington Climbers Coalition, and Washington Trails Association.

Gas tax funding is vital for recreation on public lands. RCW 46.09.520 directs the State Treasurer to "refund from the motor vehicle fund one percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax revenues collected under chapter 82.38 RCW." This funding accounts for the gas taxes collected on fuel that is used by off-road vehicles and motor vehicles travelling to recreation lands. As written, Senate Bill 5801 would not maintain the intended one percent distribution. We ask the legislature to maintain a fair tax system and invest in recreation on public lands by making the following changes to the proposal.



- 1) Ensure that new forms of revenue are deposited in the motor vehicle fund and this new tax revenue maintains the one percent tax refund program contained in RCW 46.09.520.
- 2) If the fuel tax rate increases in 2025, adjust RCW 4.09.520 so that the State Treasurer refunds one percent of the actual fuel tax, thereby ensuring tax fairness. If the bill contains an ongoing inflation adjustment, provide language in the statute that maintains the existing one percent refund rate.

Thank you for considering this matter. We would be happy to discuss this issue and share more about the importance of the nonhighway and off-road vehicle account, if that would be useful to you.

Best Regards,



Michael DeCramer  
Outdoor Alliance Washington

Cc:

Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater  
Eddie Espinosa, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
Pete Steelquist, Washington Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation  
Betsy Robblee, Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers  
Michael DeCramer, Policy and Planning Manager, Washington Trails Association  
Taylor Luneau, Board Member, Washington Climbers Coalition

