

(Submitted online to the House Appropriations Committee)

Thank you Chair Ormsby and members of the Committee, my name is Conor Marshall and I am submitting written testimony on PSHB 2289 on behalf of The Mountaineers, signed in as other.

- The Mountaineers is concerned that Climate Commitment Act funding to support the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII) was not included in the bill. Specifically, we support \$2.125 million for tribal capacity grants in WDFW's budget and \$172,000 to continue third-party facilitation services in State Parks' budget, both included in the Governor's and the Senate's proposed budgets.

The Mountaineers is a nonprofit outdoor education, recreation, and conservation organization that connects youth and adults to the outdoors through recreational activities, including on Washington's approximately 7 million acres of state-managed public lands. These state parks, recreation, and wildlife areas provide both residents and visitors transformational outdoor experiences, positive health and wellness benefits, and connection to the natural world that fosters a stewardship ethic for our shared lands and waters.

STRII is the ongoing collaborative process between state agencies and Tribal Nations to improve the management of outdoor recreation, better protect natural and cultural resources, and preserve protected Tribal rights on state lands. The outcomes and processes produced by the STRII process will help create a more sustainable future for Washington's outdoors and the tribal rights and cultural lifeways of its first stewards.

We are concerned that PSHB 2289 does not include funding to support the STRII process. Both the Governor's and Senate's proposed operating budgets include \$2.125 million for tribal capacity grants to support the engagement of Tribes in the STRII process, funded by Climate Commitment Act dollars as one-time, pass-through funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget. They also include one-time funding for \$172,000 (CCA) in State Parks' budget to continue third-party facilitation services of the STRII process. Investments in facilitation of and tribal participation in STRII are key to maintaining a thriving process and securing meaningful outcomes that will protect and sustain the health of Washington's state lands in perpetuity.

We ask that you fund these investments in the STRII process at the level included in the Senate's proposed operating budget (PSSB 5998). Thank you for your consideration as you finalize the 2026 supplemental operating budget.