

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

WASHINGTON

February 26 , 2026

Representative Timm Ormsby, Chair

Representative Mia Gregerson, Vice Chair

Representative Nicole Macri, Vice Chair

Representative Travis Couture, Ranking Minority Member

Representative April Connors, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

Representative Joshua Penner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

Representative Joe Schmick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member

House Appropriations Committee

John L. O'Brien Building

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: Operating Budget Funding to Support the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII) and PSHB 2289

Dear Representatives Ormsby, Gregerson, Macri, Couture, Connors, Penner, and Schmick:

Thank you for your work on the House operating budget amidst an extremely challenging fiscal environment. Outdoor Alliance Washington writes to express our strong support for continued investment in the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII) through the 2026 supplemental operating budget. The State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (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.

We are concerned that the House operating budget (PSHB 2289) does not include funding for STRII, which would be a significant setback to this collaborative effort and limit meaningful Tribal engagement. **As the budget process continues, we urge you to support the STRII funding reflected in both the Governor's and Senate's proposed operating budgets. Specifically, we support \$2.125 million (CCA) in one-time pass-through funding to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Tribal capacity grants and \$172,000 (CCA) in one-time, pass-through funding for Washington State Parks for third-party**

facilitation services.

As a network of organizations representing more than 75,000 climbers, hikers, mountain bikers, whitewater paddlers, and coastal recreationists, we recognize the importance of studying and mitigating impacts from outdoor recreation on public lands in a way that supports Tribal rights and cultural lifeways. 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 support these funding requests, as investments in facilitation of – and Tribal participation in – STRII, are key to maintaining a robust process and securing meaningful outcomes to protect and sustain the health of Washington's state lands. The proposed STRII funding also honors the formal request, voiced by Tribal leaders through the Centennial Accord process, for meaningful engagement with state agencies regarding recreation planning and impacts. We urge you to include this funding in the final 2026 supplemental operating budget.

Outdoor Alliance Washington strongly supports STRII funding and believes that this process is critical to the future of sustainable outdoor recreation, protection of natural and cultural resources, and protection and exercise of treaty and Tribal rights. Together, we can achieve a more sustainable future for Washington's public lands and the natural, cultural, and recreational resources they provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Betsy Robblee
Washington Policy Manager, Outdoor Alliance
Conservation & Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers



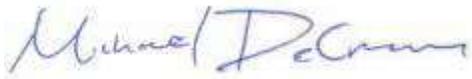
Thomas O'Keefe
Director of Policy & Science
American Whitewater



Eddie Espinosa
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance



Peter Steelquist
Washington Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation



Michael DeCramer
Policy & Planning Manager
Washington Trails Association

Our Organization: [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, and Washington Trails Association.

