

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE WASHINGTON

February 26 , 2026

Senator June Robinson, Chair
Senator Derek Stanford, Vice Chair, Operating
Senator Noel Frame, Vice Chair, Finance
Senator Chris Gildon, Ranking Member, Operating
Senator Nikki Torres, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating

Senate Ways & Means Committee
John A. Cherberg Building
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Re: Thank You for Including State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII) Funding in PSSB 5998

Dear Senators Robinson, Stanford, Frame, Gildon, and Torres:

Thank you for your work on the Senate operating budget amidst an extremely challenging fiscal environment. Given the state's ongoing budget challenges, we recognize that legislators must make hard decisions while putting together the 2026 supplemental operating budget.

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. Thank you for including the following STRII funding in PSSB 5998: \$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 to support of a thriving STRII process.

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. 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. 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.

We support these funding requests, as investments in facilitation of – and Tribal participation in – STRII, are key to maintaining a thriving process and securing meaningful outcomes to protect and sustain the health of Washington’s state lands. The proposed 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 maintain this funding in your 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 support and consideration.

Sincerely,



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



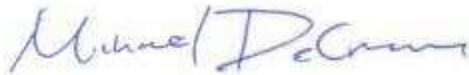
Thomas O'Keefe
Director of Policy & Science
American Whitewater



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.

