



April 18, 2016

Senator John Barrasso, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, & Mining
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, & Mining
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Business & Recreation Support for Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (S. 1510)

Dear Senators Barrasso and Wyden:

On behalf of our respective memberships, we are writing to express our strong support for the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (S. 1510), and to thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation. The Conservation Alliance and Outdoor Industry Association represent thousands of companies that make and sell products for active use in the outdoors. Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of recreation user groups that represent the hiking, climbing, paddling, mountain biking, and winter sports communities. We work together to ensure that wild lands and rivers are preserved for their recreation and habitat values.

The Wild Olympics legislation would protect 126,000 acres of Wilderness and 469 river miles on the Olympic Peninsula. The bill would preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park. Preserving these iconic lands and rivers will benefit our growing outdoor recreation economy. Outdoor companies and their customers depend on protected wild places to enjoy the products our member companies make and sell. Your legislation is an investment in our economic future.

Outdoor recreation in Washington generates \$22.5 billion in annual consumer spending, and supports 226,600 jobs. The Olympic Peninsula, with Olympic National Park and the adjacent Forest Service lands and rivers, is an important piece of Washington's outdoor recreation picture. Several of our member companies and partner groups have been deeply engaged in the Wild Olympics initiative, demonstrating the direct connection between protected federal lands and outdoor business.

Special wild places form the bedrock of our outdoor economy, and we applaud your leadership in protecting the lands and rivers in your Wild Olympics proposal. We stand ready to help move this initiative across the finish line. Together, we can ensure that the outdoor recreation economy – and the companies that drive it – will continue to thrive in Washington.

Sincerely,

John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance

Amy Roberts
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association

Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Senator Patty Murray