

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

July 12, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

## Re: Markup on S. 1690

Dear Chair Murkowski and Cassidy and Ranking Member Cantwell and Heinrich:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to thank you for scheduling a mark up on S.1690, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act, and to offer our enthusiastic support for this legislation.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of seven member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, and the American Alpine Club and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is an outdoor paradise stretching from the Seattle to Ellensburg. It includes 1,600 miles of trails, excellent whitewater runs, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, rock climbing routes, and mountain biking opportunities. The Greenway is accessed by members of all of our organizations to enjoy these activities, and is an important driver of Washington's recreation economy.

National Heritage Area designation would help the different land agencies in the area better collaborate on management – from trail maintenance to trailhead parking and educational resources. This would have a significant positive impact for this area that is experiencing increasing popularity and use.

Designation would also promote local economic growth from tourism and outdoor recreation, and provides a flexible strategy to encourage residents, government agencies, nonprofit groups and private partners to collaboratively plan and implement projects to preserve a landscape, without affecting private property rights.



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In spring of 2015, more than 3,100 of our Washington state members signed a petition in support of National Heritage Designation.

In short, the Mountains to Sound Greenway is integral to outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest and we support National Heritage Area designation to help protect this resource.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Alliance

cc:

Brady Robinson, Executive Director, Access Fund  
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association  
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater  
Michael Van Abel, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance  
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers  
Phil Powers, Executive Director, American Alpine Club

