

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Senator Vitter:

As the Environment and Public Works Committee prepares the next surface transportation authorization bill or considers legislation to extend MAP-21, we urge you to continue the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

The RTP is the foundation for state trail systems across the country, providing support to states to construct and maintain thousands of miles trails benefitting both non-motorized and motorized users. By ensuring program benefits are shared among users, the RTP encourages partnership and cooperation among trail users.

The RTP also continues to successfully apply a "user-pay/user-benefit" model. Motorized trail users pay into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), but the portion of revenue returned to the states from the HTF is used to develop and maintain trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized purposes. That means snowmobilers, off-highway motorcyclists, all-terrain vehicle riders benefit from RTP funds just as hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and cross country skiers do.

The economic benefits of the RTP are clear. Each year, motorized trail users contribute significantly more to the HTF than is provided back through the RTP. In addition, volunteer trail groups develop and build many of trail projects each year oftentimes at little cost to the RTP. These trail groups also work with local, state and regional partners to leverage additional resources, which means the economic impact of RTP investments far exceeds the level of federal funding provided to the program each year.

We understand the challenges facing our nation's highway program in the coming months and years. However, the RTP is important to our states and constituents and has clear economic benefits not only to our states but the entire nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to continue the Recreational Trails Program.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



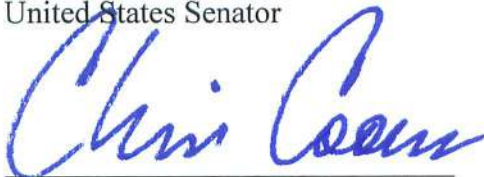
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United States Senator



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Chris Coons  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator



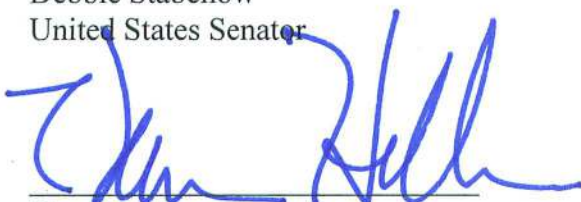
Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



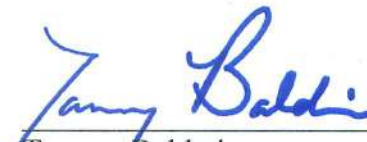
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United States Senator