



OUTDOOR ALLIANCE



November 30, 2018

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4402

Rep. John Curtis
2236 House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Recreation Advocacy Groups Support for Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 (S. 2809/H.R. 5727)

Dear Senator Hatch and Representative Curtis,

Today the Outdoor Alliance, Access Fund, American Whitewater, The Conservation Alliance and Outdoor Industry Association write in support for your proposed Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018. In our view, this proposal as it is currently written effectively balances important conservation protections with recreation management designations that will promote high quality recreation opportunities while also protecting and enhancing the regional economy. We also understand that this proposal enjoys widespread support from a broad range of user groups, conservation organizations, local governments, and the outdoor business community. As such, we applaud your efforts to develop a widely supported public lands protection bill for Emery County, Utah.

The Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 was developed by Emery County and a coalition of stakeholders, including conservation organizations, motorized recreation, human-powered recreation, local officials and governments, the State of Utah, the Congressional delegation, and many more. As recreation advocacy organizations, we particularly support key provisions in this bill that establish a Recreation Area to highlight and permanently protect the recreational resources and conservation values of the San Rafael Swell region. This bill would also designate 63 miles of Wild and Scenic River, protect existing rock climbing resources, study future trail development opportunities, and establish wilderness areas throughout Emery County, amounting to several hundreds of thousands of acres of permanent conservation in all.

We appreciate continuing efforts to resolve two issues that concern the outdoor recreation and conservation communities: additional wilderness protection and Utah SITLA land exchange. We understand that your offices have reached an agreement on the directed land exchange to not trade land into the Ute Indian reservation. Outdoor Alliance, Access Fund, American Whitewater, The Conservation Alliance and Outdoor Industry Association support this agreement and the directed land exchanges as outlined on the Utah Trust Lands acquisition target map dated November 28, 2018 (also see attached map that depicts the Emery County subset of directed land exchanges, page 4). We also support the proposal to expand the bill's wilderness area with designated wilderness additions that include Muddy Creek, Labyrinth Canyon, and other areas that are drawn to avoid impacts to important mountain bike trail resources (see attached map of proposed wilderness additions, page 4) that are highly valued by our community.

It is important that the many benefits and resources associated with Emery County be available for future generations, including diverse recreation and conservation values. Thank you for your work on the Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Louis Geltman, Policy Director of Outdoor Alliance at

louis@outdooralliance.org or 301-928-7789. We appreciate your assistance in preserving important recreational opportunities in Utah for both your constituents and outdoor recreationists nationwide.

Sincerely,



Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance



Zachary Lesch-Huie
Acting Executive Director
Access Fund



Mark Singleton
Executive Director
American Whitewater



John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance



Amy Roberts
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association

Cc: Sen. Lisa Murkowski
Sen. Maria Cantwell
Rep. Rob Bishop
Rep. Raul Grijalva

Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Lee Davis, Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelsen, CEO, Surfrider Foundation

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Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten 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, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation, and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Access Fund

The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization whose mission keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. A 501(c)3 non-profit supporting and representing over 6.8 million climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering—the Access Fund has over 17,000 members and nearly 120 local affiliate organizations. The Access Fund supports policies that protect and enhance all forms of climbing, from pristine backcountry wilderness experiences to developed frontcountry climbing areas. This bill preserves recreational experiences across the opportunity spectrum and we commend this proposal that includes such innovative and problem solving ideas for our public lands. Utah is one of the Access Fund's largest member states and many of our members recreate in Emery County, Utah.

American Whitewater

Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization with a mission “to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.” American Whitewater is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates across America. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission.

The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see www.conservationalliance.com.

Outdoor Industry Association

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for the outdoor industry and is the title sponsor of Outdoor Retailer, the largest outdoor products tradeshow in North America. OIA serves over 1,300 manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers through a focus on international trade and public lands and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation and outdoor participation.

Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 – Proposed Wilderness Additions

