



February 13, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
FAX 202-228-3027

Dear Senator Schumer:

The recreation trade associations and organizations below support the nomination by President Trump of U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke to serve as United States Secretary of the Interior, an appointment of utmost importance to the outdoor recreation industry. Both land and water management are under the direction of the Department of the Interior, with policies directly impacting America's recreational access to federally managed lands and waterways. Mr. Zinke's Senate confirmation hearing was received positively by our business community and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has voted to recommend his confirmation. We request your help in bringing Mr. Zinke's nomination to the floor promptly and your support for his confirmation. The Department needs active policy leadership as soon as possible.

Our organizations represent thousands of U.S. businesses that produce and provide equipment, gear, apparel, vehicles and services for the millions of Americans who enjoy our nation's public lands, waterways, and byways. Spanning outdoor recreational activities such as boating, fishing, hunting, camping, snow sports and powersports, and including recreational vehicles, outdoor equipment and clothing used to pursue these activities, we are dedicated to growing diverse outdoor participation, expanding recreational access for Americans, promoting conservation, and bolstering sustainable domestic jobs. The outdoor recreation industry generates \$646 billion-per-year in economic activity and provides some 6.1 million direct jobs. Our industry is especially vital to countless rural communities near federally-managed lands and waters.

As a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, hunter and angler, Rep. Zinke understands the importance of access to and funding for America's public lands and waters, and the outdoor industry's critical economic impact. Congressman Zinke was a co-sponsor of the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact (REC) Act of 2016, which was recently signed into law and ensures that outdoor recreation spending and jobs are measured by the federal government and will be reported as a distinct part of the national Gross Domestic Product for the first time ever.

Support for Secretary-nominee Zinke is reflected in these comments by key recreation leaders:

“Secretary-nominee Zinke understands the significance of the outdoor recreation economy and how to help our diverse industry sector reach its full potential,” explained Frank Hugelmeyer, President of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. “We urge a speedy confirmation by the Senate so we can focus on expanding outdoor recreation jobs and providing high-quality experiences on our public lands for all Americans.”

"The Department of the Interior is responsible for many of America’s crowned jewels, natural resources, and the backbone of the outdoor our industry- America’s public lands and waters,” said Amy Roberts, Executive Director of the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). “OIA looks forward to working with Secretary Zinke, once he is confirmed, on ensuring the growth and success of the outdoor recreation economy.”

Thom Dammrich, President of National Marine Manufacturers Association noted, "Rep. Zinke will be a strong leader for the Department of Interior, with a proven commitment to our public lands and an understanding of how to balance public access and conservation. We look forward to the Senate's swift confirmation of Rep. Zinke so he may begin the important work ahead."

We look forward to working with him and the team at the Department of the Interior to advance the outdoor recreation sector, grow jobs in the U.S., and ensure robust public access and treasured experiences in the outdoors. Please confirm Congressman Zinke as Secretary of the Interior so we can start this work critically to building healthy communities and healthy economies. Thank you for understanding the priority we place on this action.

Sincerely,

**American Recreation Coalition
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
BoatU.S.
International Snowmobile
Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of
America
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Marine Manufacturers
Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation**

**Outdoor Industry Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle
Association
Recreation Vehicle Dealers
Association
Recreation Vehicle Industry
Association
SnowSports Industries America
Specialty Equipment Market
Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of
America**