



The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chair, Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U. S. House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U. S. House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair, Highways and Transit Subcommittee
U. S. House of Representatives
B376 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
Ranking Member, Highways and Transit
Subcommittee
U. S. House of Representatives
B375 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2015

Dear Members of the Committee:

Our organizations are encouraged by the funding increases for the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. These investments begin to acknowledge the needs of our national parks and other federal lands that suffer from an increasingly costly backlog of repairs.

Maintaining our transportation systems on federal lands is of vital importance to the future public use and enjoyment of our federal lands, including national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. Roads, bridges and transit systems on our federal lands serve as main arteries to major cities as well as nearly one billion recreation and tourism visits annually. Federal lands and their transportation systems are wholly dependent upon federal funding; they do not have the benefit of support from state or local funding mechanisms. However, the funding levels for federal lands transportation programs have largely remained unchanged for nearly twenty years.

Our diverse coalition of recreation, conservation and tourism organizations support investments in our federal lands in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 in order to provide safe access to our national parks and other federal lands for the enjoyment of the American people.

Sincerely,

American Forests
American Hiking Society
American Recreation Coalition
Association of Partners for Public Lands
Big Bend Conservancy

Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Destination Marketing Association International
East Bay Regional Park District
National Park Hospitality Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Tour Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Outdoor Industry Association
Partners for the National Trails System
Southeast Tourism Society
The Coalition to Protect Our National Parks
The Corps Network
United States Tour Operators Association
Western National Parks Association
Western States Tourism Policy Council
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

cc: Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee