



April 18, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of America Outdoors Association, I am writing to express my support for H.R. 3400, the Recreation Not Red Tape Act. We very much appreciate your support for increasing access to outdoor recreation on federally managed lands and especially appreciate your inclusion of much of The GO Act in H.R. 3400.

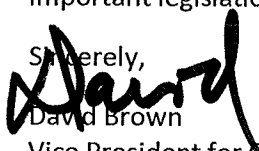
We suggest a few minor adjustments to the bill. Based on our analysis of the National Recreation Area System (NRAS) provisions, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) a higher level of NEPA analysis may be required when outfitter permits are issued in areas eligible for inclusion in the NRAS. The cost recovery reform provisions in the bill certainly help offset that concern but we found one minor adjustment that needs to be made in SEC. 110. COST RECOVERY REFORM to achieve that intent. In the subparagraph on multiple applications (b)(3) the provision currently reads: *"(B) for each application, apply a separate exemption of up to 50 hours (or such other greater number of hours specified for exemption) to the share allocated to such application."* We believe to achieve the goals of this provision and provide consistency with the other provisions in this SECTION, "up to" should be stricken so that the language reads, *"for each application, apply a separate exemption of ~~up to~~ 50 hours (or such other greater number of hours specified for exemption) to the share allocated to such application."* We believe this is the intent of this provision.

Two other small changes are also suggested. A clause to clarify that the new management priorities for the NRAS are not intended to diminish commercial outfitting would also be appreciated.

"OUTFITTING AND GUIDING.—Nothing in this Act shall diminish or prevent the authorization of activities and uses that have been permitted under a special recreation permit for outfitting, guiding, or other recreation services prior to the date of enactment of this Act on lands included in any existing System unit, or prior to designation of any new System unit on lands included in a new System unit designated by Congress pursuant to section 304(c)(2)."

Also, to avoid expanding the management priorities on page 34 delete "prospective" in line 15.

That being said there are many positive provisions in H.R. 3400 and for that reason the Board of Directors will support the bill. We are especially grateful for all the hard work your staff put into this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David Brown

Vice President for Government Affairs