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February 27, 2017

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Chair, The Honorable Ann Lininger
Vice-Chair, The Honorable Pam Marsh
Vice-Chair, The Honorable David Brock Smith
The Honorable Brian Clem
The Honorable David Gomberg
The Honorable Ken Helm
The Honorable Andy Olson
The Honorable Bill Post
The Honorable E. Werner Reschke

Re: Support of HB 2143,

On behalf of the 3,700 members of the Mazamas, I am writing to encourage the Committee's support and passage of HB 2143 to establish Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Day on the second Saturday of June of each year in perpetuity.

The idea behind this bill is part of a national effort to elevate the importance of outdoor recreation in all states of the Union. Whether it's hunting and fishing, hiking, climbing or paddling, we believe that the simple act of getting outside and enjoying Oregon's public lands is paramount to our way of life. It's a primary part of why many of us live here, why so many people move here, and why we love it here in Oregon.

In addition to teaching thousands of people each year the art of mountaineering and its various disciplines, the Mazamas strives to protect our public lands. We also represent the unified voices of mountaineers, rock climbers, hikers, backpackers, trail runners, and many other human-powered recreationists throughout Oregon. In our conversations, we all agree that this bill is an excellent step towards encouraging more people to experience the great outdoors and eventually become stewards of our recreation treasures.

We encourage all the leaders of Oregon to celebrate outdoor recreation as a must-have value that is woven into our daily lives. When people, and children in particular spend time recreating outside it improves their mental and physical health, their engagement with their community, and their interest in learning and lifelong education.

The passage of HB 2143, will send a strong message to all Oregonians that the simple act of recreation in Oregon's great outdoors will always be a priority for our state. Thank you and please feel free to contact me for more information about supporting Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Day.

Sincerely,

Lee Davis,
Executive Director
Mazamas