



February 8, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 4015

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Outdoor Industry Association and Oregon Outdoor Alliance, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 4015, to establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.

Oregon Outdoor Alliance is a non-profit organization with 400 members dedicated to connecting and cultivating the outdoor industry in Oregon. Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for suppliers, manufacturers and retailers in the \$887 billion outdoor recreation industry, with more than 1200 members nationwide and 70 in Oregon.

Establishing a sustainable, dedicated funding stream for conservation, outdoor recreation, and education in the state will ensure that all Oregonians will have access to a system of parks and public spaces, and the many benefits they provide.

Oregon's outdoor recreation economy - which sustains **172,000** direct jobs, generates **\$16.4 billion** in consumer spending, and contributes **\$749 million** in state and local tax revenue each year - has been reinforced recently by the creation of an Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Initiative in recent legislative sessions.

Once again, the Oregon legislature has the opportunity to reaffirm the importance outdoor recreation has to Oregonians by advancing HB 4015. The legislature's inclusion of a **\$13 million** appropriation to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund in HB 4015 demonstrates the legislature's continued support of this significant sector of Oregon's economy and Oregonian's lives. This appropriation is also important as a match for leveraged investments from funds such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as well as other public and private sources.

We encourage you to support HB 4015 to create the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund which will ensure investments in Oregonians' public health, and the continued growth and success of Oregon's outdoor industry. We pledge to work with you in support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cailin O'Brien-Feeney

State and Local Policy Manager

Outdoor Industry Association

Mike Wallenfels

President

Oregon Outdoor Alliance