The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) calls on all trail organizations and trail enthusiasts to take action immediately to continue and to expand the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the national trails assistance program that aids all trail activities nationwide through use of federal non-highway recreational fuel taxes.

A huge step occurred late last year when the Congress instructed the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a timely estimate of the fuel tax generated through non-highway recreational activities in its FY2020 budget and included RTP reauthorization in key Senate legislation creating the next-gen surface transportation program. Now, action in the House of Representatives is underway and underscores the bipartisan and coast-to-coast support RTP enjoys in the Congress.

US Representatives Peter Welch (D-VT), John Curtis (R-UT), Angie Craig (D-MN), Annie Kuster (D-NH), Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Chris Stewart (R-UT) introduced the Recreational Trails Full Funding Act of 2020 (HR 5797) that will more than double funding for the RTP and make other important changes. HR 5797 will:

- require completion of the nonhighway recreational fuel use study at least every five years and reports to Congress on the results;
- increase RTP funding to $250 million annually – from $84 million currently – or to the new estimated amount from the mandated studies;
- establish new reporting standards for projects completed with RTP funds to provide increased transparency;
- simplify and increase funding of administration of RTP by FHWA; and
- re-establish the original formula for apportionment of RTP funds to the states.

Since 1991, RTP has provided funding to states to develop and maintain outdoor recreational trails, allowing millions of Americans and their families to enjoy activities such as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and 4-wheel driving. More than 25,000 key projects have been completed in all states and the District of Columbia and benefit not only the recreational trail enthusiasts paying the taxes but all trail activities.

The successes of RTP are easier to understand than ever through CRT’s new website at www.rectrails.org which includes a copy of HR 5797, new infographics explaining the RTP program and links to key data, including information about completed projects in each state.

CRT’s Board of Directors now asks each trail enthusiast organization,
recreation industry association and trail advocates to take these actions now:

1) Use your print and electronic communications channels to share news of HR 5797 and other recent Congressional actions which would continue and expand the RTP, providing safe and healthy trail opportunities for all Americans. Send copies of your stories to CRT at CRTLeadership@rectrails.org.

2) Retweet the great tweet by US Representatives Welch and Curtis at https://twitter.com/PeterWelch/status/1225898900260892672

3) Write to express thanks to HR 5796’s cosponsors for being RTP Champions:

   The Hon. Peter Welch
   The Hon. John Curtis
   The Hon. Angie Craig
   The Hon. Annie Kuster
   The Hon. Mike Simpson
   The Hon. Chris Stewart

   See the attached CRT letter, with its impressive list of supporting national organizations. Use this address: The Hon. xxx, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

4) Contact your own U.S. Representative and those Members with strong relations to your organization and ask them to cosponsor HR 5797, the Recreational Trails Full Funding Act. Ask your Senators to support the similar Senate bill, S. 1527. Interested Members in the House should contact Alex Piper (Welch) at Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov or Jake Bornstein (Curtis) at Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov.

5) Check the CRT website at least weekly for updates: www.rectrails.org.

Feel free to contact Marianne or Derrick if you have questions.

Adventure Cycling Association  National Association of State Trail Administrators
American Council of Snowmobile Associations  National Park Hospitality Association
American Horse Council  National Recreation and Park Association
American Motorcyclist Association  National Wildlife Federation
American Trails  Off-Road Business Association
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access  Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Back Country Horsemen of America  People for Bikes
Bikes Belong  Professional Trail Builders Association
BlueRibbon Coalition  Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Conservation Legacy  Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
The Corps Network  Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Equine Land Conservation Resource  SnowSports Industries America
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators  Specialty Equipment Market Association
International Mountain Bicycling Association  Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  Student Conservation Association
Motorcycle Industry Council  Tread Lightly!
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners  United Four Wheel Drive Associations
National Association of State Park Directors
February 7, 2020

Honorable Peter Welch  
Honorable John Curtis  
Honorable Angie Craig  
Honorable Annie Kuster  
Honorable Mike Simpson  
Honorable Chris Stewart  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The nation's recreational trails community strongly supports HR 5797, strengthening and extending the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). We deeply appreciate your national leadership efforts on this important issue. This legislation would ensure that the remarkable successes of the RTP since its 1991 creation will continue and provide safe, enjoyable trails and access to the Great Outdoors for millions of Americans. The measure requires a Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Study, better reporting of RTP projects and increased funding.

RTP is a partner-based program uniting federal/state/local agencies, enthusiasts and the recreation industry and is unique in its support of trail maintenance. More than 25,000 projects and programs have been completed, contributing to our economy, to our health and safety, and to greater access to our public lands.

Adventure Cycling Association  
American Council of Snowmobile Associations  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Motorcyclist Association  
American Trails  
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access  
Back Country Horsemen of America  
Bikes Belong  
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