

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Patty Murray  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Senator Susan Collins  
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Senate and House Appropriators:

The undersigned hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation organizations write to you on behalf of millions of American outdoorsmen and women and the shared wildlife we all enjoy. Our voices are national in breadth and span our nation's \$862 billion outdoor industry. As you begin debate on Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 federal funding levels, we ask that you prioritize recreational access to our nation's public lands and provide \$13.5 million to implement the Modernizing Access to our Public Land (MAPLand) Act (PL No. 117-114).

In recognition that easement data and public land access information at federal land management agencies has failed to keep pace with the adoption of modern technologies, Congress passed the MAPLand Act on April 6, 2022. The law directs the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps to consolidate, digitize, and make publicly available recreational access information in a format that can be used with mapping programs and GPS technologies. This includes information on legal easements and rights-of-way, closures, and other special rules and restrictions. This information will help the public identify legal access opportunities for outdoor recreation, improve user satisfaction of public lands, and reduce conflict with landowners. To ensure the agencies achieve the directives of the legislation, we respectfully urge you to provide the following in FY24:

- \$5.5 million to the Department of the Interior
- \$5.5 million to the Department of Agriculture
- \$2.5 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

By providing the resources necessary to effectively collect, modernize and make this valuable, taxpayer-held data available, the appropriations committees will ensure that federal land managers can identify and prioritize projects for new or improved public access that will benefit millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Archery Trade Association  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Conservation Force  
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Houston Safari Club  
International Hunter Education Association – USA  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Masters of Foxhounds Association  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Deer Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Orion: The Hunter's Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Quail Forever  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Safari Club International  
Sportsmen's Alliance  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi