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