

Town of Mammoth Lakes

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June 16, 2020

Congressman Paul Cook 1222 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT The Great American Outdoor Act

Dear Congressman Cook,

In this time of a national public health emergency and its cascading injurious economic effects, the Town of Mammoth Lakes trusts that you will do the right thing and vote to invest in our parks, public lands, and outdoor recreation assets in recognition of their vital importance to the regional economy here in Mammoth Lakes and California's Eastern Sierra. The Great American Outdoors Act, including full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), will be critical to a sustained economic recovery for Mammoth Lakes and our sister communities in the Eastern Sierra, and is worthy of your vote.

Our national, state and local parks, trails and public lands are a critical economic drivers for communities big and small, urban and rural. Across the nation, the travel and tourism industries have been taking a hit in the current crisis. Investing now in full funding for LWCF will help with a strong long-term recovery for gateway communities such as Mammoth Lakes and states that rely on visitors to public lands. Specifically:

- America's outdoor recreation economy supports over 7.6 million jobs, contributes over \$887 billion in annual economic output, and serves as the lifeblood for countless communities across the country.
- Every dollar spent on LWCF <u>returns \$4 in economic value</u> from natural resource goods and services alone over and above the economic benefit of the outdoor recreation economy and tourism.

In the weeks and months to come, our nation's parks, trails, and outdoor spaces will be integral to our nation's coping and recovery. Great parks and green spaces make stronger, healthier communities. Everyone deserves access to the outdoors and the countless benefits parks provide. America's public lands bring us peace of mind and generate economic revenue - both will be critically needed to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Great American Outdoors Act is directly relevant to Mammoth Lakes, ready to go, and makes sense for Congress to advance and pass.

Investing in our public lands, and providing full, permanent funding for LWCF is a low-cost economic stimulus that will pay big dividends for Mammoth Lakes and communities across America. Please vote for the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Holler Town Manager

cc: Town Council