



June 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I write to express our support for S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act. This senate-passed bipartisan legislation would help address the \$20 billion deferred maintenance backlog in the Department of the Interior, \$12 billion of which is accumulated by the National Park Service, creating thousands of construction jobs in the process. **ABC urges the House of Representatives to swiftly consider and approve the legislation.**

If approved by the U.S. House of Representatives, the Great American Outdoors Act will create the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Fund, which would direct up to \$9.5 billion in nontaxpayer funds over five years improve the infrastructure within the NPS and other agencies with significant differed maintenance backlog, much of which is related to transportation assets.

A 2019 Pew-commissioned [report](#) by the Cadmus Group found that addressing the NPS' nearly \$12 billion maintenance backlog would create or support an estimated 108,364 construction jobs. This increase in construction demand generated by the Great American Outdoors Act would deliver much-needed jobs to the construction industry, which [shed](#) nearly one million jobs in April due to the coronavirus, before [adding](#) back more than 460,000 in May.

The Great American Outdoors Act would also ensure full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which would permanently secure the financial integrity of one of the most important public land conservation programs while bolstering the \$778 billion outdoor recreation economy.

ABC would also like to express its continued commitment to building projects with the highest standards of safety and quality, and we stand ready for the opportunity to build and maintain America's public land and national park infrastructure to the benefit of the communities that it will serve.

We would again ask the House of Representatives to consider and approve S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs

CC: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives