

United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

United States Senate
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 2, 2020

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations represent millions of American sportsmen and women conservationists and we are writing on their behalf to urge you to cosponsor the Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act, S. 3427. This important legislation, recently introduced by Senators Martha McSally and Angus King, with a House companion introduced by Representatives Russ Fulcher (R-ID) and Derek Kilmer (D-WA), will standardize the digitization and accessibility of information regarding recreational access and allowable activities on millions of acres of federal public lands throughout the United States. Doing so will make Americans increasingly aware of opportunities to access and use their public lands, including hunters and anglers, in a manner beneficial to innumerable local and regional economies.

Both Congress and the Department of the Interior have recently taken action to help create additional access for outdoor recreation on inaccessible public lands. To complement this tremendous progress, it is vital that information about new and existing public lands access and allowable uses be comprehensively collected, synthesized, and made publicly available so that it can inform the public of recreation opportunities using increasingly popular mapping and GPS technologies. The Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (MAPLand) seeks to do just that.

Currently, the federal land management agencies – including the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management – lack the resources and capacity needed to effectively collect, modernize, and make available this data for the lands they administer. For example, many of the agencies' access easement records are still held on paper files at local offices and cannot be integrated into digital mapping systems. The U.S. Forest Service alone has an estimated 37,000 recorded easements, only 5,000 of which have been digitized and uploaded into their electronic database. MAPLand would authorize the resources needed to modernize and standardize

access information in a manner that would benefit millions of outdoor recreationists, allowing them to use modern tools and resources to access and enjoy their public lands.

For these reasons, we encourage you to cosponsor the MAPLand Act. Please contact Trevor Pearson in Senator McSally's office (trevor_pearson@mcsally.senate.gov) or Morgan Cashwell in Senator King's office (morgan_cashwell@king.senate.gov) to do so or to request additional information about the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing service on behalf of our nation's sportsmen and women and wildlife.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association

American Sportfishing Association

American Woodcock Society

Angler Action Foundation

Archery Trade Association

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)

Boone and Crockett Club

California Waterfowl Association

Campfire Club of America

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Conservation Force

Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports

Dallas Safari Club

Delta Waterfowl

Fly Fishers International

Houston Safari Club

Izaak Walton League of America

Masters of Foxhounds Association

Mule Deer Foundation

National Deer Alliance

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Orion – The Hunter’s Institute
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Union Sportsmen’s Alliance
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi