

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear House and Senate Appropriators:

The undersigned hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation organizations, representing millions of Americans' shared commitment to wildlife and our nation's \$689 billion outdoor recreation economy, write to thank you for your support for the recently enacted Modernizing Access to our Public Land (MAPLand) Act, and urge you to provide the fully authorized funding amount in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

The federal government manages over 640 million acres of public lands held in trust for all Americans. These lands define our great nation and provide innumerable unique opportunities for hunting, recreation, and education. However, as more outdoor enthusiasts utilize GPS tools, the recordkeeping of easement data and access information at federal land management agencies has failed to keep pace.

The MAPLand Act directs federal land management agencies to consolidate, digitize, and make publicly available all 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, or other special rules and restrictions. To ensure the agencies can meet the goals of the legislation, we request that your committee provide the following in FY 23:

- \$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

To achieve the vision outlined in the MAPLand Act, the agencies need additional resources to effectively collect, modernize, and make this data available. Doing so will help identify and prioritize projects for new or improved public access, and benefit millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to coordinating with Congress and the federal land management agencies on the one-year progress report to ensure the money appropriated is implemented in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
American Woodcock Society
Angler Action
Archery Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Boone and Crockett Club
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Fly Fishers International
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Mule Deer Foundation
National Bobwhite & Grasslands Initiative
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion: The Hunter's Institute
Outdoor Industry Association
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi
Wild Sheep Foundation

CC:

Rep. Chellie Pingree, Chair, House Interior Subcommittee
Rep. David Joyce, Ranking Member, House Interior Subcommittee
Senator Jeff Merkley, Chair, Senate Interior Subcommittee
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Interior Subcommittee

Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Chair, House Energy & Water Subcommittee

Rep. Michael Simpson, House Energy & Water Subcommittee

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chair, Senate Energy & Water Development Subcommittee

Senator John Kennedy, Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee