



MAMMOTH LAKES RECREATION



Protect America's Climbing



TAHOE MOUNTAIN SPORTS



March 8, 2018

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SUPPORT AB 1918**: Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the millions of Californians and tourists who utilize outdoor recreation opportunities in our state, the undersigned public entities, private companies and businesses and nonprofit organizations are writing to express our emphatic support for AB 1918 and the creation of the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. We stand ready to work with you and the Legislature to make this bill a reality.

According to a 2017 report conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor industry in our state supports over 690,000 California jobs and makes other significant contributions toward the goal of healthy communities and healthy local/regional economies. The outdoor economy represents nearly \$90 billion in economic consumption statewide and generates \$6.2 billion in state and local taxes.

Given recent federal proposals to shift public land responsibilities and orientations, it is critical that this office be established to bridge communications between local, state, federal, and private entities to ensure that our public lands maximize public access and use potential and, above all else, **remain public**.

Additionally, while California maintains a state Department of Parks and Recreation and houses other departments whose missions embrace the notion of increasing public health and public health awareness, there is no single entity or office dedicated to promoting outdoor opportunities and celebrating the benefits of the outdoors in all settings - urban, suburban, and rural.

Offices of outdoor recreation have been established in eight other states, including Washington, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Montana, Vermont, North Carolina, and Wyoming. California needs to focus greater energies on the economic and society-creating engine that is the outdoors and harness the opportunities inherent in our landscapes to the benefit of all Californians.

We applaud your leadership in this area and are eager to work with you in support of AB 1918.

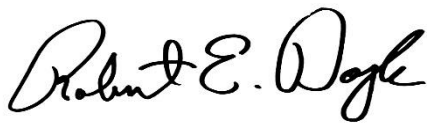
Sincerely,



Douglas D. Houston, Executive Director
State Park Partners Coalition (SPPC)



Stephanie Stephens, Executive Director
California Park & Recreation Society
(CPRS)



Robert E. Doyle, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District



Steve Frisch, President
Sierra Business Council



Mark Stanley, Executive Director
Watershed Conservation Authority



Rico Mastrodonato, Senior Government
Relations Manager
The Trust for Public Land



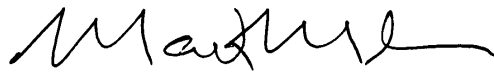
José G. González, Founder
Latino Outdoors



Katie Goodwin, California Regional
Director
Access Fund



Sam Roberts, President, Board of
Directors
Friends of the Inyo



Mark Menlove, Executive Director
Winter Wildlands Alliance



Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority



Laura R. Cohen, J.D., Director, Western
Region
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Bert Whitaker, Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks



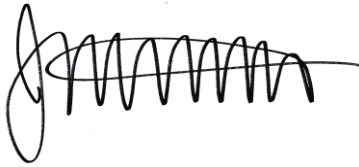
Austin McInerney, President
National Interscholastic Cycling
Association



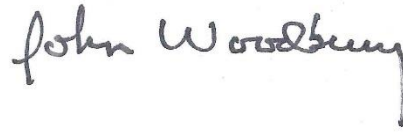
Sean Barclay, General Manager
Tahoe City Public Utility District



Tom Johnson, President
Mammoth Lakes Recreation



John Wentworth, Chief Executive
Officer/Board President
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
Foundation



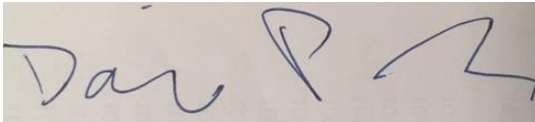
John Woodbury, General Manager
Napa County Regional Park and Open
Space District



Adam Cramer, Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance



Rich Meyer, Co-Founder
Tahoe Backcountry Alliance



David Polivy, Owner
Tahoe Mountain Sports



Theresa L. Simsiman, California
Stewardship Director
American Whitewater



Matt Lyon, President, Board of Directors
California Outdoor Recreation Partners
(CORP)



Cindy Gustafson, CEO & Executive
Director
North Lake Tahoe Resort Association

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Catherine Freeman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Chinook Shin, Committee Secretary, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Robert Spiegel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Consultant