



Protect America's Climbing

May 7, 2019

Representative Jared Huffman  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Kamala Harris  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Access Fund Support for Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act of 2019 (S. 1110, HR 2250)**

The Access Fund writes this letter in support for the recently introduced Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act of 2019. The bill will restore forests and fisheries, protect wild lands and streams and improve recreation opportunities in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity counties.

We understand that this bill enjoys widespread support from a broad range of user groups, conservation organizations, local governments, and the outdoor business community. As such, we applaud your efforts to develop a widely supported, stakeholder-driven public lands protection bill for Northwest California.

Visitors come to this region from across the country to fish, paddle, hike, rock climb and mountain bike.<sup>1</sup> These recreational resources contribute to the regional economy and encourage forest health and new infrastructure including trail improvements and camping facilities.

As America's leading national rock climbing advocacy group, we particularly support key provisions in the bill that expand recreation opportunities in the region including direction for federal agencies to work collaboratively with each other, local communities, and other stakeholders to assess trail improvement needs in National Forests in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino counties. We are very appreciative of the provision in this bill which protects recreational rock climbing resources, and supports past and future Wilderness climbing activities (Section 302 (m)).

We also appreciate continuing efforts to resolve issues associated with rock climbing in the area known as the Marble Caves. The rock climbing resources in this region are high quality and

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<sup>1</sup><https://outdooralliance.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0acf9f6727944f019da7180959fccce2>.

provide tremendous value for future generations of climbers. We look forward to continuing our discussion on enhancing the protection of Marble Caves rock climbing opportunities.

Thank you for your work on the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act of 2019. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katie Goodwin, California Regional Director of the Access Fund at [katie@accessfund.org](mailto:katie@accessfund.org) or 303-552-2843. We appreciate your effort to preserve important recreational opportunities in Northwest California for both California constituents and outdoor recreationists nationwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Goodwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" being more prominent than the last name "Goodwin".

Katie Goodwin  
California Regional Director  
Access Fund

Cc:  
Chris Winter  
Executive Director  
Access Fund