

March 21, 2015

Hon. Representative

Washington, DC 20515

**Re: National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act**

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express support for the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, introduced in the last Congress as HR 4886. I am very pleased to see that it has been introduced to the current Congress as HR 845.

Across the United States, America's National Forests provide world-class recreational opportunities but access to many of these wonderful lands would not be possible without adequate trails.

Unfortunately, the trail system on our National Forests is in decline. Only a quarter of the trails are maintained to Forest Service standards, and the agency is facing a maintenance backlog of more than \$500 million. Without immediate action, we will continue to lose access to the great outdoors.

The Act will help improve maintenance of our National Forest trail system by providing new opportunities to expand trail maintenance. The legislation establishes a much-needed program to expand the use of volunteers and partner organizations in assisting the Forest Service in maintaining National Forest trails.

The legislation will also ensure that the Forest Service is prioritizing its trail maintenance activities in areas that are most in need of additional work and most important to the public. Finally, the legislation will help outfitters and guides play an increased role in maintaining trails on public lands.

I am pleased to support the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act and ask you to please co-sponsor **HR845**.

Sincerely,