

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

June 5, 2015

Senator Maria Cantwell
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Dave Reichert
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area

Dear Senator Cantwell and Congressman Reichert,

Outdoor Alliance enthusiastically supports the designation of the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area. Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of seven national, member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Alpine Club, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, The Mountaineers and Winter Wildlands Alliance. Together, Outdoor Alliance represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes, with a high concentration of members, supporters and local partners in Washington.

The Greenway includes spectacular resources for the human powered recreation community in proximity to major population centers, and protection and enhancement of these invaluable resources and opportunities to enjoy them will be greatly fostered by National Heritage Area designation.

Recreational resources in the Greenway include whitewater runs on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Cooper Rivers, China Gorge on the Cle Elum, Powerhouse on the Snoqualmie, Fall in the Wall on the South Fork Snoqualmie, and others; groomed trails and backcountry skiing and snowshoeing along Snoqualmie Pass; hiking at Rattlesnake Ledge, Mount Si, the Pacific Crest Trail, and dozens of other destinations; mountain biking at Duthie Hill mountain bike park, South Fork Snoqualmie Trails, Teanaway Trails, and other areas; and climbing at Exit 38, Little Si, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley, and other destinations. Many of these resources are readily accessible for day trips and represent the backyard destinations for those living in the region, one of the area's defining features.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a national success story, the result of decades of collaboration between agencies, nonprofit groups, and private organizations, and National Heritage Area designation is a fitting recognition of this work, as well as an opportunity to build

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

on existing partnerships and establish new ones for the maintenance and enhancement of the Greenway legacy. We strongly support your efforts to pass National Heritage Area legislation for the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Sincerely,

Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Brady Robinson, Executive Director, Access Fund
Lee Davis, Executive Director, Mazamas
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Martinique Grigg, Executive Director, The Mountaineers
Michael Van Abel, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Phil Powers, Executive Director, American Alpine Club
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association