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State of Alaska, EX OFFICIO

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, and Congressman Young:

On behalf of the more than 625 members of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), thank you for your support of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), which recently passed both houses of Congress. As advocates of safe access to - and improved infrastructure on - public lands, GAOA is a tremendous step forward in addressing the maintenance backlog in our public lands.

In 2019, the majority of Alaska's more than 2 million visitors traveled to one or more of our national parks sites as either independent visitors or as part of a larger tour package. National park visitation alone generates nearly \$1.7 billion in annual economic activity for Alaska and supports more than 17,000 jobs. It helps generate critical local and state revenue through taxes and fees.

When you consider not only our national parks, but also our national forests, wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands as visitor destinations, the economic benefits are truly significant. Many, if not all, ATIA members rely on these special places - directly or indirectly - for their livelihoods. While infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater facilities, and culverts is not at the top of visitors' minds, well-maintained infrastructure ensures safe and reliable public access of our nation's parks, forests, and wildlands.

As our industry begins to recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19, our national public lands will continue to draw visitors from across the United States and the world. With your support, these visitors will be able to access and experience Alaska's crown jewels for years to come.

Again, thank you for all you do for Alaska's tourism industry and for Alaska.



Sarah Leonard
President & CEO



Dan Oberlatz, Alaska Alpine Adventures
ATIA 2019-2020 Board Chair