

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
409 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Dexter
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janelle Bynum
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Local Oregon business support for the Roadless Rule and Roadless Area Conservation Act

Dear Oregon leaders,

We, the undersigned Oregon businesses, are writing to you in support of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the Roadless Area Conservation Act (H.R.3930 & S.2042), and protecting our state's irreplaceable roadless wildlands.

Roadless Areas represent the best of what remains of our national forests that have not been degraded by extractive practices. They provide clean drinking water, essential fish and wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and world-class recreation opportunities. These forests are some of the last remaining intact and most resilient ecosystems in our country. Protecting them makes both ecological and economic sense.

Oregon's businesses rely heavily on public lands, clean water, healthy watersheds, and intact forests. According to a 2022 analysis, spending on outdoor recreation in Oregon exceeded \$16 billion and supported 192,000 jobs.¹ A recent analysis by Earth Economics found that protected Roadless Areas in Oregon alone contribute \$2.5 billion in annual economic benefits to our state.²

¹ Earth Economics, "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: 2022 Update," <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Documents/2024.07.17%20Economic%20analysis%20of%20outdoor%20recreation%20in%20OR%20-%202022%20update.pdf>.

² Earth Economics, "Roadless Area Conservation Rule Brings \$24B in Benefits," <https://www.eartheconomics.org/news/roadless-rules>

Restaurants, breweries, hotels, guides, and outdoor adventure stores all depend on healthy waters and lands to draw tourism to our state. Protected forests also supply the number one ingredient for Oregon’s famous craft beer industry: clean water. In 2024, the brewery industry in Oregon supported over 46,000 jobs and generated nearly \$9 billion in economic output.³ Our state’s nearly 2 million acres of roadless forests provide the backbone for these thriving industries.

In Oregon, this includes special places like Tumalo Mountain and the Cascade Lakes in Deschutes National Forest, Larch Mountain in the Columbia River Gorge, Rough and Ready Creek and the wild rivers of the Siskiyou Mountains, and Joseph Canyon in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Roadless Rule has successfully protected these lands for more than two decades, but the Trump administration’s plan to rescind the policy puts our natural heritage and economic well-being at risk.

Allowing industrial logging or road-building in these backcountry forests is not only unpopular, it is wasteful. New logging roads are expensive for taxpayers to build and maintain, increase wildfire risk, and degrade clean water sources that millions of Americans rely on. Logging these fragile landscapes undermines biodiversity, harms fish and wildlife, and erodes the foundation of a growing outdoor recreation economy worth billions of dollars each year.

The administration’s efforts to open Oregon’s two million acres of roadless areas to commercial logging and road building are not in line with Oregonians’ values or the public lands legacy we want to leave for future generations. The public has now, multiple times, expressed its resounding support for protecting our nation’s roadless wildlands. When the Rule was completed in 2001, over 1.6 million people commented with 95% supporting protection—more than any federal rule in US history. More recently, over 625,000 Americans submitted public comments during the September 2025 comment period on the proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule in just three short weeks. Analysis of those comments found that over 99% of submitted comments opposed rescinding the rule—a near unanimous display of support from the American public for keeping roadless protections in place.⁴

However, without Congressional action, these places remain vulnerable to political attacks. Passing the Roadless Area Conservation Act would provide lasting protections for these 2 million acres of Oregon national forests and over 58 million acres nationwide, ensuring these lands continue to benefit people, wildlife, and future generations.

Senators Wyden and Merkley, we appreciate your many years of support for Oregon’s roadless wildlands and for co-sponsoring S. 2042. Congresswomen Bonamici, Bynum, Dexter, and

³ Beer Serves America, “Economic Impact of the Beer Industry,” https://beerservesamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/BSA2024_OR.pdf

⁴ Center for Western Priorities, “Comment analysis finds over 99% opposition to repealing 2001 Roadless Rule,” <https://westernpriorities.org/2025/09/comment-analysis-finds-over-99-opposition-to-repealing-2001-roadless-rule/>

Salinas, we thank you for co-sponsoring H.R. 3930. Congressman Bentz and Congresswoman Hoyle, we strongly encourage you to join your colleagues in co-sponsoring the Roadless Area Conservation Act. We also urge you all to defend the Roadless Rule and speak out against this administration's attacks on this popular policy.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kumler Photography

Animosa

Barking Mad Farm

BearKat Brewing Company

Blossom Barn Cidery

Boundless Farmstead

Caddis Fly Shop LLC

Cog Wild Bicycle Tours

Double Mountain Brewery and Cidery

Dudley's Bookshop Cafe

Earthwell

Eugene Gear Traders

Falling Sky Brewing

Futurescapes Consulting

Go Wild: American Adventures

Grapevine Outdoor LLC

Gratitude Brewing

GRAYL

Hetty Alice Brewing Company

Humble Roots Farm and Nursery LLC

La Mouette

Lake Creek Lodge

Lazy Days Brewing Company

Leon Werdinger Photography

Level Beer

Living Room Realty

Mahonia Group at MORE Realty

Metolius Tea

Minam River Lodge

Minimal Gear

Mountain Rose Herbs

Oregon Pack Works

Ouzel Outfitters

Parallel 45 Brewing

Patagonia

pFriem Family Brewers

RainSong Vineyard

River Drifters

ROW Adventures

Ruffwear

Saturn Duplication

Silver Falls Brewery

Sisters Coffee Company

Spring Fed Media LLC

Straightaway Cocktails

Sunriver Brewing Company

Terranaut Beer

The Fly Fisher's Place

The Oregon Brewery Running Series

The Oregon Cliff House

Wallowa Llamas

Wanderlust Tours