

September 28, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell:

We are outdoor enthusiasts whose livelihoods depend on America's national public lands. We write to express our gratitude for your efforts to reform and update our nation's energy policies on public lands. The \$646-billion outdoor recreation industry depends on clean air and water, as well as open and accessible lands, and we are thankful for your efforts to ensure that energy development on these lands strikes a balance with the needs of other industries and communities.

We have seen the impacts of poorly planned energy development on our landscapes, and the effects of a warming climate on the outdoors. We are concerned about what these changes mean for our future, but we do have hope that the work of your Administration to reform our nation's outdated energy policies will lead to well-planned energy development that considers and protects the recreation assets that drive the outdoor economy.

In particular, we strongly support the following revisions to our energy policies:

- **Renewable Energy Leasing** – Creating a “smart from the start” process for developing renewable energy on public lands is common sense. We strongly support our nation's transition toward renewable energy, and we want to ensure that renewable energy projects are not developed in areas where the recreation economy could be negatively impacted. Streamlining development in other areas, where development is appropriate, and providing a fair return to taxpayers for the use of our public land is a strong step in the right direction.
- **Federal Coal Reform** – The process for leasing coal to private companies and the management of publicly owned coal has not been updated in over 30 years despite many investigations showing serious problems with the program. A complete overhaul and re-evaluation of this program is long overdue, and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) work to begin this process in a public and transparent way shows that your Administration is dedicated to engaging all stakeholders in important decisions impacting our public lands and reducing the impact of public lands energy development on climate change.
- **Cutting Methane Waste and Pollution** – The BLM is overhauling a long outdated policy that allows oil and gas operators to waste methane—the primary component of natural gas—through flaring, venting, and leaky equipment. Methane waste and pollution compromises our air quality, harms our climate, and costs taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in lost

royalty revenues from a publicly-owned resource. A methane rule will help BLM meet its statutory requirement to ensure a fair return to taxpayers, and by ensuring more natural gas is brought to market, energy companies also stand to benefit. Methane is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a global warming pollutant, and reducing methane emissions is critically important for slowing climate change now. This rule will reduce annual emissions equal to taking 890,000 vehicles off the road. We encourage the Obama administration to finalize this rule as quickly as possible this fall.

- **Stream Protection Rule** – We can no longer afford to allow private companies to defer the cost of responsible mining and development by using nearby streams for waste removal. The Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement has been working for years to improve outdated regulation. The new Stream Protection Rule will keep our water sources clean and protect recreation areas where people live, play and visit. We urge the Obama administration to finalize this rule as quickly as possible this fall.
- **Master Leasing Plans for Oil and Gas Development** – This planning tool allows the BLM to work directly with communities on an acre-by-acre basis to create “smart from the start” leasing plans that avoid conflicts with rivers, trails and other recreation destinations. The Moab Master Leasing Plan (MLP) is a success story and was created with significant input from local stakeholders, including recreation businesses and stakeholders. We hope the other MLPs in process and proposed, like Tres Rios (CO), San Rafael Desert (UT), and Greater Little Mountain (WY), are well-advanced by the end of your administration and that MLPs become a standard planning tool for future administrations.

Once again, we thank you for your work to advance these and many other responsible and balanced reforms for our public lands. Outdoor industry jobs and millions of others depend on clean air and water and protected places to recreate on our nation’s iconic public lands. Thank you for your attention to these issues, and for protecting the outdoors for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

**Adventure 16**  
John Mead  
San Diego, CA

**Armada Skis**  
Erik Snyder  
Park City, UT

**Aspen Ski Company**  
Auden Schendler  
Aspen, CO

**Black Diamond**  
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**Burton**  
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**Clif Bar**  
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**Farm to Feet**  
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**Red Wing Shoe**

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