



peopleforbikes

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February 10, 2022

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands
U.S. House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Russ Fulcher
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neguse and Ranking Member Fulcher:

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, thank you for holding a legislative hearing in the National Park, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee to hear from witnesses and discuss the importance of outdoor recreation and conservation. PeopleForBikes strongly supports the Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act (H.R. 6337) which will improve access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities on trails and public lands across the nation.

The U.S. bicycle industry contributes \$88 billion annually to our economy and employs more than 780,000 Americans. The PeopleForBikes Coalition (PeopleForBikes) is the national trade association representing companies that manufacture and distribute bicycles, bicycle parts and bicycle accessories. Nationwide, PeopleForBikes represents nearly 300 bicycle businesses and more than 7,000 retailers.

The BOLT Act builds on the success and momentum of the Great American Outdoors Act by recognizing the importance of long distance trails to create iconic backcountry discovery while supporting small rural communities. The legislation will require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior to:

- Identify no less than 10 existing long-distance bike trails on Federal lands in excess of 80 miles in distance;
- Identify 10 areas where opportunity exists to develop or complete long-distance bike trails on federal lands in excess of 80 miles in distance;
- Coordinate with stakeholders on feasibility of completing long distance trails and the resources necessary for such projects;
- Publish maps, signage, and promotional materials highlighting the positive aspects of the long-distance trail network;
- Issue a report, with input from stakeholders, outlining the details of existing and proposed long-distance trails and their promotion.

To ensure the spirit of the original concept of the legislation, we would support “dirt trail” as being further defined by trail characteristics rather than the type of bike riding intended. We suggest the following nuanced definition be used in the legislation:

- Are primarily dirt/natural surface (short connectors on pavement/improved roads are acceptable);
- Are generally 80+ miles in length on Federally-managed lands;
Are composed of generally consistent types of trail (i.e. primarily singletrack roads or primarily 4x4 roads);
- May be used for mountain biking and/or bikepacking (multi-day trips).

Lastly, we oppose any legislative language that would attempt to resolve conflict between user groups on a mandated multi-use trail which would amount to special treatment for one group over another. We feel these hypothetical conflicts can and should be resolved in the agency planning process with stakeholder engagement and should be determined by the appropriate land management jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership for our public lands and access to high quality recreation infrastructure. PeopleForBikes stands ready to support you and this subcommittee in advancing the BOLT Act through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noa Banayan". The signature is stylized, with a large, bold "N" and "B".

Noa Banayan, director of federal affairs
PeopleForBikes Coalition