



Governor Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: Alaska Office of Outdoor Recreation (SUPPORT)

Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of Valdez Adventure Alliance, Outdoor Industry Association, and the undersigned businesses and organizations of the Confluence Coalition, we write to support efforts to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation for Alaska. Alaska's burgeoning outdoor recreation economy has the potential to drive economic growth far beyond its current impact. An office devoted to the support and coordination of the businesses, agencies, and groups that shape this sector can ensure that it develops to its full potential in the years and decades to come.

Alaska's outdoor industry already generates \$7.3 billion in consumer spending and directly supports 72,000 jobs. Last year, some 81 percent of Alaskans — the highest percentage of any state — reported taking part in outdoor recreation activities. It's no secret Alaska's phenomenal opportunities for outdoor adventure contribute directly to a lifestyle that attracts new visitors, residents, and businesses.

Creating an Office of Outdoor Recreation with innovative, dedicated staff will allow Alaska to capture and grow this significant area of economic activity. How do we propose accomplishing this? An office will improve the coordination of a) Alaska's outdoor recreation industry, b) tourism, economic development, public health and education professionals, c) recreation and land management agencies and d) the public. As a central point of contact, the office can champion the strategic action needed to accelerate growth in the outdoor recreation sector.

Alaska's many guide services, backcountry lodges, air and water taxis, retailers and cruise ship tour operators help sustain the economies of both our biggest cities and our most remote villages. Leading outdoor companies proudly headquarter their operations within our state. Alaskan innovators have created entirely new recreational activities that have spread worldwide, among them sled dog racing, packrafting and fat biking. Specialty retailers for sportsmen, snow machine and off road recreationists are ambassadors who highlight the benefits of living, working and playing in the Last Frontier every day.

These business and the many others that comprise Alaska's outdoor recreation economy present ripe opportunities to diversify Alaska's economy, stimulate rural economic development and sustain healthy, active lifestyles. Other states have recognized similar opportunity and created offices of outdoor recreation to ensure its effective development. To date, Colorado, Washington, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon and Utah have such offices or equivalent executive-level leadership. Other states are considering similar actions in coming months.

We appreciate the interest you have shown in advancing Alaska's outdoor recreation industry by sending senior staffers to each of the Confluence gatherings and by helping kick off our first meeting with a greeting video in June 2016. Outdoor recreation has proven to be a sector that enjoys broad, non-partisan support. We hope you see that the creation of an Office of Outdoor Recreation will be a win for your Administration and for the future of Alaska.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned

Timestamp	Business or Organization	Name	Title
12/20/2017 14:36:36	Agnew::Beck	Chris Beck	Principal/Owner
12/20/2017 10:07:01	Alaska Alpine Adventures LLC	Dan Oberlatz	Owner
2/26/2018 13:56:13	Alaska Avalanche Information Center	Debra McGhan	Executive Director
12/22/2017 11:53:42	Alaska Backcountry Access	Andy Morrison	Owner/Operator
12/20/2017 14:18:00	Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Barry Whitehill	Board Member
12/14/2017 14:08:09	Alaska Conservation Foundation	Michael Barber	Executive Director
12/19/2017 11:39:26	Alaska Fly Fishing Goods	Brad Elfers	Owner
12/14/2017 10:41:33	Alaska Huts	Tom Callahan	Executive Director
12/19/2017 0:48:55	Alaska Photography CO.	Zachary Sheldon	President
12/15/2017 8:41:19	Alaska Trails	Steve Cleary	Executive Director
12/14/2017 10:25:09	Alaska Wildlife Alliance	Ed Schmitt	MD
2/26/2018 16:35:31	Alaska Wildlife Alliance	Edward A Schmitt MD	President
2/27/2018 13:15:16	Alaska's Fishing Unlimited, Inc.	Martin Kviteng	Owner/President
3/1/2018 10:20:53	Alaskan Angling Adventures LLC.	Michael Adams	Operations Manager
2/27/2018 8:43:08	Alaskan Eagle Cruises	Jimmie C Rosenbruch	Owner
12/22/2017 12:10:22	Backcountry Bike and Ski	Julie Berberich	Owner
2/27/2018 19:23:35	Backcountry Bike and Ski	Anthony Berberich	Owner
2/26/2018 13:31:51	Backcountry Bike and Ski, LLC	Julie Berberich	Owner
2/27/2018 10:09:29	Baranof Wilderness Lodge	michael trotter	owner operator

12/21/2017 16:00:55	Blue Dot Distributing	Ira Edwards	Owner
12/19/2017 10:18:19	Brightwater Alaska, Inc	Chuck Ash	owner
12/19/2017 13:06:20	Bristol Bay Lodge	Steve Laurent	Owner/G.M.
1/21/2018 8:33:00	Chelatna Lake Lodge, Inc.	Rebecca Bertke	Secretary
12/19/2017 21:45:50	Chinook Tours LLC	Felix Schneider	Owner
12/19/2017 10:15:51	Crystal Creek Lodge	Heather Oberholtzer	Owner / Manager
12/19/2017 10:16:16	Crystal Creek Lodge	Dan Michels	Owner / Operator
12/19/2017 10:16:40	Crystal Creek Lodge	Alex Oberholtzer	Owner / Manager
2/27/2018 8:16:17	Emerald Water Anglers, LLC	Dave McCoy	Owner, General Manager, Travel Manager
12/15/2017 23:33:00	Fairbanks resident	Mark Billingsley	BLM Resource Advisory Council member UA employee
12/19/2017 10:15:48	Fly Water Travel	Ken Morrish	co-owner
2/27/2018 8:27:45	Frigate Adventure Travel	Kate Taylor	Co owner
12/19/2017 9:00:12	Frontier River Guides	Marty Decker	Owner
2/28/2018 11:07:38	Grizzly Skins of Alaska	Phil Shoemaker	Owner
12/15/2017 14:40:50	Happy Trails, Inc.	Jon Underwood	Owner/President
2/26/2018 14:58:03	Heather's Choice LLC	Heather Kelly	Founder
12/17/2017 12:49:19	Interior Trails	Christine Byl	co-owner
12/17/2017 12:49:54	Interior Trails	Gabe Travis	co-owner
12/18/2017 22:34:26	Mighty Bikes	Janice Tower	President
12/19/2017 13:11:42	Mossy's Fly Shop	Mike Brown	Owner
2/28/2018 9:17:51	Muskeg Excursions	Johnnie Laird	owner / guide

2/26/2018 13:25:03	Citizen	Pat pourchot	Mr.
12/15/2017 19:33:59	Pack Creek Bear Tours	Daniel Kirkwood	General Manager
12/18/2017 16:36:40	Recreational Equipment, Inc (REI)	Mike Morganson	Market Coordinator
2/27/2018 10:55:09	Retiree	Wayne Jones	Alaksan citizen
12/14/2017 12:09:36	Revelate Designs LLC	Eric Parsons	CEO
12/19/2017 8:06:20	Robertson Stykbow	Yote Robertson	Vice President
12/19/2017 9:14:51	SalmonState	Rachel James	Bristol Bay Campaign Coordinator
12/23/2017 14:10:01	Silver Salmon Creek Lodge	David Coray	president
2/27/2018 9:46:53	Silver Salmon Creek Lodge	David Coray	president
12/18/2017 22:35:05	Singletrack Advocates	Janice Tower	Founder, Past President
12/18/2017 23:23:29	Singletrack Advocates	Colleen Bolling	Administrator
12/17/2017 15:34:44	Singletrack Advocates	Adam Robinson	Board member
12/19/2017 10:42:17	Southeast Alaska Guiding	Hans Baertle	Owner, Registered Guide # 549
12/21/2017 12:27:43	Speedway Cycles/Fatback Bikes	Greg Matyas	Owner
12/15/2017 13:32:07	The Alaska Center	Polly Carr	Executive Director
12/19/2017 12:18:10	The Fly Shop, Inc.	Patrick J Pendergast	Director of International Travel
12/20/2017 12:47:42	The North Face	EJ Reiser	Store Manager
12/18/2017 17:53:00	UnCruise Adventures	Dan Blanchard	Owner/CEO
12/14/2017 10:56:11	University of Alaska Anchorage HPER	Timothy Miller	Director
12/13/2017 15:58:50	Valdez Adventure Alliance	Lee Hart	Executive Director
3/1/2018 16:46:53	Valdez Adventure Alliance	Andy Shidner	Board Chairman

12/19/2017 10:00:53	Valdez Heli-Ski Guides	Scott Raynor	owner
12/19/2017 12:11:39	Western Alaska Sport Fishing, Inc.	August D. Egdorf	Owner/operator for 35 years
2/27/2018 13:13:45	Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures	Jim Klug	Owner and Founder
3/6/2018 12:53:27	Sound Sailing - Sitka, AK	Blain Anderson	Owner/ Captain