



Protect America's Climbing

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Jared Polis  
US House of Representatives  
1433 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Access Fund Support for Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act**

Dear Representative Polis,

Today the Access Fund writes in support for your proposed Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act. In our view, this proposal effectively balances important conservation protections with recreation management designations that will promote high quality recreation opportunities while also protecting and enhancing the regional economy. We also understand that this proposal enjoys widespread support from a broad range of user groups, conservation organizations, local governments and the outdoor business community. As such, the Access Fund applauds your efforts to develop a widely supported public lands protection bill for Eagle and Summit Counties.

**Access Fund**

The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization whose mission keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. A 501(c)3 non-profit supporting and representing over 6.8 million climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering—the Access Fund has over 10,000 members and nearly 90 local affiliate organizations. Colorado is one of the Access Fund's largest member states.

The Access Fund supports policies that protect and enhance all forms of climbing, from pristine backcountry wilderness experiences to developed frontcountry climbing areas. This bill preserves recreational experiences across the opportunity spectrum and we commend this proposal that includes such innovative and problem solving ideas for our public lands.

**Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act**

The Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act would provide permanent protection for some of Colorado's most renowned views and mountains. In addition to creating new wilderness designations, this bill would also establish innovative recreation management areas designed to promote and enhance Colorado's world-class recreation opportunities like mountain biking, hiking, fishing, horseback riding,

snowshoeing, climbing, skiing, camping, and hunting. While the new wilderness protections in this proposal are important and needed, designating recreation management locations such as at the Tenmile area provides protection for key recreation assets that attract recreational enthusiasts and fuel the economies of gateway communities such as Breckenridge. These measures will protect Colorado's thriving recreation economy that generates \$13.2 billion in consumer spending, 125,000 jobs, and \$994 million in state and local tax revenue in Colorado.

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It is important that the many benefits and resources associated with Eagle and Summit County be available for future generations. Thank you for your work on the Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Access Fund's senior policy advisor Jason Keith at 303-8919-2969 or [Jason@accessfund.org](mailto:Jason@accessfund.org). We appreciate your assistance in preserving important recreational opportunities in Colorado for both your constituents and outdoor recreationists nationwide.

Sincerely,



Brady Robinson  
Executive Director  
The Access Fund