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The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Lands
US House of Representatives
451 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Federal Lands
US House of Representatives
2400 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Dear Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse,

On behalf of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), which represents over 8 million mountain bikers in the US, partners with over 200 local organizations and nearly 200,000 individual supporters, we appreciate the Subcommittee's continued support in regards to the importance of outdoor recreation and conservation. Specifically, IMBA thanks the members for not only highlighting the one year anniversary of the EXPLORE Act, but also scheduling a hearing on the progress of such an historic accomplishment.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) creates, enhances and protects great places to ride mountain bikes. We are focused on creating more trails close to home to grow the quantity and quality of mountain bike trail communities across the U.S., so everyone has access to close-to-home rides and iconic backcountry experiences. Since 1988, IMBA has been the worldwide leader in mountain bike advocacy and the only organization focused entirely on trails and access for all types of mountain bikers in all parts of the U.S. IMBA teaches and encourages low-impact riding, grassroots advocacy, sustainable trail design, innovative land management practices and cooperation among trail user groups. IMBA U.S. is a national network of local groups, individual riders and passionate volunteers working together for the benefit of the entire community.

While IMBA and the mountain bike community fully supported the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act, our main focus was on the The Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act which was a top legislative priority for our community as it continues the investment in outdoor recreation by recognizing the importance of long distance trails to create iconic backcountry discovery while supporting small rural communities. The BOLT Act now requires 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;



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- 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.

There are a number of trails that will benefit from this long-distance trails recognition, such as the Ouachita National Recreation Trail in Arkansas, the High Country Pathway in Michigan, Maah Daah Hey trail in North Dakota, the Great Divide Mountain Bike Trail running from the Canada to Mexico border, and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Utah are all mountain bike trails that will benefit from the BOLT Act. Long-distance bike trails have brought incredible economic benefits to communities across the country, and the BOLT Act will help further bolster the economy.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis the recreation economy accounted for \$454 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is an increase of \$107 billion over 2020. Headwater Economics projects that these numbers present a significantly higher value than some of the traditional economic drivers such as motor vehicle manufacturing; oil, gas, and coal; air transportation; and the performing arts.

With the historic passage of the EXPLORE Act one year ago, we now find ourselves in the critical phase of implementation where agencies will soon face Congressionally mandated deadlines. Beginning in early 2025, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) led a group of offroad bicycling organizations to begin the process of collecting data on long distance trails using our collective knowledge of trail based recreation infrastructure. As part of our effort we asked hundreds of trail based organizations to nominate what trails they would like to see in a comprehensive list of long distance trails. The response was overwhelmingly positive. During this period we have regularly communicated with our federal agency partners openly sharing data as they are due to report a list of long distance trails in July of 2026. We have full confidence they will provide a detailed report identifying long distance trails on our public lands.

IMBA appreciates the Committee's role in outdoor recreation across the United States and its important work on the EXPLORE Act. We continue to stand ready to assist the Committee to ensure implementation of this important policy and find any additional opportunities to increase outdoor recreation to benefit our members and Americans nationwide. Thank you for accepting our written testimony.



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Sincerely,

Todd Keller, Director of Government Affairs
International Mountain Bicycling Association