Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2026

The Honorable Michael Boren
Undersecretary, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Kate MacGregor
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20242

Undersecretary Boren and Deputy Secretary MacGregor:

We write to highlight the importance of maintaining an effective and functional Recreation.gov website. Created almost ten years ago, millions of Americans now use Recreation.gov every year to access campgrounds, permits, passes, and other recreation opportunities on federal lands. In Colorado, Recreation.gov enables Americans from all over the country to visit our state's public lands, National Parks, and National Forests, facilitating the state's $18.1 billion outdoor recreation economy. As the Departments' reach the end of the current Recreation.gov contract, we urge you to ensure the system is able to continue serving as a reliable resource for Americans looking to take advantage of their public lands.

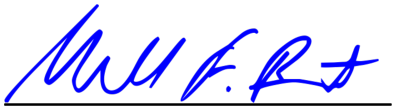
Any major change to the Recreation.gov system should be carefully evaluated to ensure it benefits taxpayers, improves service quality, maintains operational continuity, and avoids reducing the capabilities upon which land managers and visitors currently rely. In addition, while the system must continue to evolve to address changing conditions – including the reported use of autonomous bots by third-party actors that unfairly obtain reservations at the expense of the American public – those improvements should be pursued in a way that preserves continuity for visitors and land managers alike.

To that end, we respectfully request that you provide responses to the following questions:

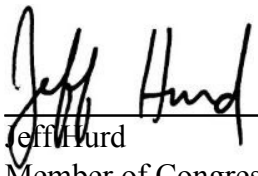
- Is the recompete process expected to result in a material change to the Recreation.gov system, including the types of services offered?
- What steps is the Administration taking to ensure reliable access to Recreation.gov for all users as the recompete process begins?
- What efforts are being developed or implemented to combat automated bots, improve communication about reservation availability and high-demand sites, and provide guidance on alternative destinations?
- How are Administration officials engaging with the Recreation One Stop program office and industry partners to identify opportunities to improve the system?
- Have DOI and USDA officials considered deviating from the current unified platform?

We look forward to working with you to ensure fair and open competition during the rebid process, and to guarantee Recreation.gov remains modern, reliable, secure, and responsive to the needs of the American people and the federal land managers who serve them.

Sincerely,



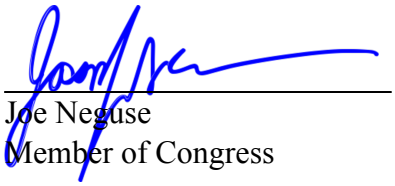
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



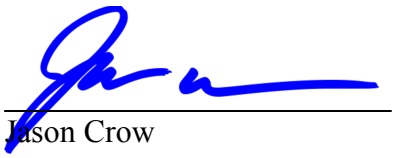
Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress