



March 20, 2020

Dear National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucus (NASC) legislators,

On behalf of the millions of sportsmen and women from all 50 states represented by our organization, we write to thank you for your tireless work to keep public health and safety a priority during the challenging COVID-19 crisis that continues to impact our nation. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to meet the needs of your constituents, communities and our nation during these uncertain times.

During this difficult period, we write today to respectfully ask for your help in working with your governors and state natural resource agencies to maintain access to public lands and waters such as state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, boat launches, and other hunting and fishing areas while still following the advice of public health officials to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationalists partake in social distancing virtually every time they participate in these treasured pastimes. Maintaining public access to public lands will allow Americans to spend time outdoors while they practice safe social distancing. Maintaining the openness of these public lands, while following recommendations to close visitor centers and buildings, will still afford our shared constituency the freedom to enjoy our nation's natural resources while simultaneously supporting public health objectives to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Although potentially limited based on the recommendations of public health officials, these activities generate consumer activity that is critically important to rural communities and online retailers during this time of economic and social uncertainty. To that end, public lands and waters are critical for the nation's economy, as well as for the financial, physical and mental well-being of our nation's outdoor enthusiasts and the businesses that support these needs.

At the federal level, we extend our sincere thanks to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt for suspending entrance fees for national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Land Management sites across the country during this time to allow these important activities to continue in a safe and healthy manner.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts and dedication to maintaining the well-being of citizens in every state. We respectfully encourage you to continue working with your colleagues at all levels of government to ensure public access to the outdoors during this challenging time. If we can assist you in any way, we stand ready and willing to do so.

Sincerely,

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation