

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 27, 2017

Cathy Griffith
Operations Director – Emerald Expositions
Outdoor Retailer Tradeshow
31910 Del Obispo, Suite 200
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Dear Ms. Griffith,

In light of the decision to move the outdoor industry's twice yearly showcase from Salt Lake City to a new location, we want to share with you some of Oregon's best features as a recreation haven and as a natural alternative conference destination.

Oregon is the ideal showcase location for travelers from across the country and across the globe who come to our state to visit the Seven Wonders of Oregon – the Columbia River Gorge, the Oregon Coast, Mt. Hood, the Willamette, the Painted Hills, Smith Rock, and Crater Lake – and everywhere in between. Outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon are not limited by landscape, weather, or season. Whether backpacking, skiing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping, biking, or kiteboarding, there is something for everyone in Oregon. Interest in visiting Oregon continues to grow, with Crater Lake experiencing a record number of visitors in 2015.

Oregon doesn't just attract visitors – the outdoor lifestyle and accessibility of a wide variety of recreation opportunities is one of the reasons Oregon also attracts new residents, as well as new businesses, every year. As you know, Oregon is home to many prominent and innovative companies and small businesses helping to grow the outdoor recreation economy. In Oregon we like to say “the great outdoors is part of our DNA.”

As leaders within Oregon's Congressional Delegation, we've fought hard to ensure our public lands are protected and accessible for Oregonians and visitors to enjoy. We've succeeded in passing legislative protections for some of our most iconic natural attractions, including the Mt. Hood Wilderness, the Oregon Caves National Monument, the Oregon Badlands, and thousands of miles of Wild, Scenic and Recreational rivers. We have supported the administrative preservation of important places like the recent expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and the mineral withdrawal in southern Oregon. Preserving these and other treasures for future generations has been and continues to be one of our highest priorities.

In Oregon, we love our public lands, and we invite you to see all Oregon has to offer.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

cc: Amy Roberts, Executive Director, Outdoor Industry Association