





Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2015 – S. 2219

The Missing Piece:

-  In the US, the outdoor recreation economy is a major driver of job creation and growth. However, the federal government does not track the outdoor recreation sector's contributions to economic growth, unlike other major sectors in the U.S. economy.
-  The legislation directs measurement of the outdoor recreation sector's economic value is critical to making informed policy and business decisions.
-  The bill has overwhelming support from much of the outdoor recreation industry, including RVIA, RVDA, ARVC, OIA, and ARC.
-  This data is crucial to help quantify the economic importance of outdoor recreation and to help inform the decisions that affect businesses and millions of RVers who recreate outside each year. Policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels need this data to properly invest in recreation infrastructure to allow current and next generation RVers to enjoy the iconic federal lands and campgrounds for many years to come.

Request: Please cosponsor the bipartisan Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2015

To cosponsor the bill, please contact the bill sponsor:

[Senator Jeanne Shaheen \(D-NH\)](#)
or [Senator Cory Gardner \(R-CO\)](#)

The REC Act Overview:

- Directs the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis to measure, analyze and report on the full economic impact attributable to the outdoor recreation economy.
- In conducting the assessment, the Bureau may consider employment, sales, contributions to travel and tourism, and other appropriate contributing components of the outdoor recreation economy.



The Outdoor REC (Recreation’s Economic Contributions) Act Senator Jeanne Shaheen & Senator Cory Gardner

In the United States, the outdoor recreation economy is a major driver of job creation and growth. According to a broad estimate by the Outdoor Industry Association, this important sector generates more than \$646 billion in consumer spending each year and supports more than 6.1 million American jobs. Unlike other major sectors in the U.S. economy, however, the federal government does not track the contributions of the outdoor recreation sector to economic growth, leaving policymakers and business leaders in the dark.

The **Outdoor REC Act** would, for the first time, require the federal government to provide an accurate measurement of the outdoor recreation industry and its contributions to the U.S. economy. In particular, it would direct the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis – working with other relevant federal agencies – to measure, analyze and report on the full economic impact attributable to the outdoor recreation economy.

Understanding the outdoor sector’s economic value is critical to making informed policy and business decisions. The outdoor recreation economy supports more jobs than the oil, natural gas and mining sectors combined, yet policymakers and business leaders do not have accurate information about this important sector’s impact on the economy. Considering the sector’s growing significance, the federal government should begin providing a definitive measurement of the full breadth of the outdoor sector’s impact on our economy.

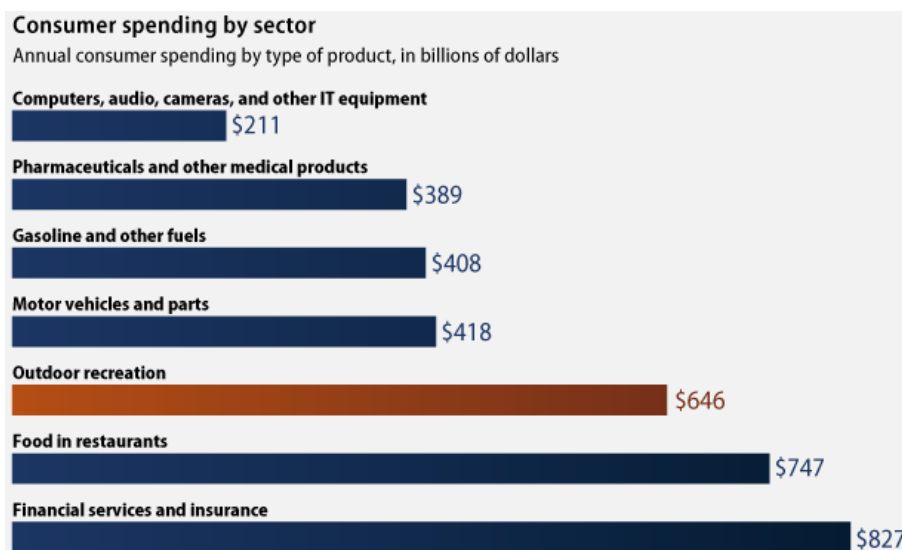


Figure 1: Outdoor Industry Association data; January 2015 Report, Center for American Progress, The Government Should Begin to Measure America’s Powerful Outdoor Economy

The Outdoor REC Act Captures the True Impact of the Outdoor Recreation Economy

- Directs the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis to conduct an assessment of the outdoor recreation industry’s full contributions to the U.S. economy.
- Such contributions could include employment, travel and tourism, the manufacturing and sale of gear and apparel and outdoor activities like hunting and angling.