

January 13, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

The RV Industry Association (RVIA) is pleased to express its strong support for President-elect Trump's nomination of Governor Doug Burgum to serve as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. This appointment is of critical importance to the RV industry and the broader outdoor recreation community. As the steward of more than 20 percent of the nation's land base—including iconic national parks and public lands that attract nearly half a billion visits annually—the Department's mission and leadership have a profound impact on the American-made RV industry and RVers across the country.

RVIA is the national trade association representing over 500 manufacturers and component and aftermarket suppliers who together build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the United States. The RV industry contributes \$140 billion annually to the U.S. economy and supports 680,000 full-time American jobs.

Governor Burgum has long been a steadfast champion of outdoor recreation. In May 2024, he established the North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation to enhance industry partnerships and maximize the state's outdoor recreation potential. Under his leadership, North Dakota has demonstrated the economic and social value of outdoor recreation and camping, which contributes significantly to both local economies and the national GDP.

Secretary-designate Burgum will play a leading role in addressing critical challenges and opportunities for outdoor recreation, including the reauthorization of the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which is set to expire in 2025. While the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) provided permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Legacy Restoration Fund requires reauthorization or extension to continue addressing the significant deferred maintenance and investment needs of our national parks and public lands. The Legacy Restoration Fund is currently supporting hundreds of critical outdoor recreation projects nationwide, improving park infrastructure, creating jobs and boosting local economies. For instance, it has provided a \$21.5 million investment to revitalize Yosemite National Park's largest campground. This project will repair roads, improve accessibility, and update facilities for the more than 150,000 campers who visit annually.

Governor Burgum's record reflects a deep commitment to enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities and prioritizing access to public lands. We appreciate Secretary-designate Burgum's commitment to prioritize investments in outdoor recreation infrastructure, including the modernization and expansion of federal campgrounds to accommodate the growing needs of the vibrant American RV industry.

We look forward to collaborating with Secretary-designate Burgum and the Department of the Interior to advance the outdoor recreation sector, grow U.S. jobs, and safeguard treasured experiences in our great outdoors. His leadership presents a unique opportunity to strengthen public access and ensure that America's outdoor heritage continues to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Kirby", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Craig A. Kirby
President & CEO