



Ride with Respect
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March 9th, 2021

The Honorable John Curtis
United States House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Curtis:

Thank you for cosponsoring the RTP Full Funding Act of 2021.

Since 1991, the Recreational Trails Program was intended to direct all fuel taxes derived from the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) toward the improvement of motorized and non-motorized trails. RTP is an excellent model for the philosophy of user-pay-user-benefit and for the governance of federalism. Funding is distributed to each state for administration of the grant program.

For eight years, I served on the OHV Advisory Council of Utah State Parks that reviews RTP grant applications across the state. In the Moab area, RTP has improved trails and related facilities for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorcycling, ATV riding, and 4WD use. The vast majority of RTP funding on motorized trails has gone toward making them more safe and sustainable, a win-win for recreation and conservation.

Trail use is growing, yet the USFS and BLM's recreation budgets are dwindling, so more funding is desperately needed to protect the trails and their surroundings. If the RTP budget were to become several-times larger, we are confident that all of it would be put to good use. Those funds would boost local economies since trails are a key amenity for tourists and residents alike.

For these reasons, Ride with Respect wholeheartedly supports the RTP Full Funding Act of 2021, and we appreciate your initiative on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Clif Koontz
Executive Director