

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

August 23, 2016

Don Neubacher
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Yosemite, CA

Re: Outdoor Alliance Support for Yosemite Climbing Museum Proposal

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we would like to offer our support for the proposed Yosemite Climbing Museum.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of seven member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Mountaineers, and the American Alpine Club and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Climbing in Yosemite embodies the spirit of adventure that leads countless people to explore and recreate on our public lands. A climbing museum would add value to a diverse range of visitors by telling the story of the evolution of climbing and recreation and the influence of National Parks. As climbers, backcountry skiers, hikers, paddlers, mountain bikers, and paddlers, we have a direct and intensely personal interest in the conservation of our public lands. We hold dear the history and traditions of our activities, especially at places like Yosemite, which is acknowledged as one of the most significant climbing areas in the world. The more we can educate the public, the more likely we'll be to develop stewards who want protect these places and the experiences they offer.

The Yosemite Climbing Museum proposal includes the involvement of external partners, including the American Alpine Club. The AAC is one of our member organizations and a valuable partner in supporting sustainable management of climbing in parks, providing input on effective policies and promoting stewardship programs—the Yosemite Climbing Stewards, for example. If successful, this museum could foster broader support for partnerships—philanthropic or volunteer—for Yosemite and beyond.



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Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: John Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Mike Gauthier, National Park Service
Ken Yager, Yosemite Climbing Association
Jerry Gallwas, Yosemite Advocate

Brady Robinson, Executive Director, Access Fund
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Mike Van Abel, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Executive Director, American Alpine Club

