



June 21, 2007

Re: Support Mark Udall's Amendment on R.S> 2477 on Interior Appropriations

Dear Member of Congress:

Outdoor Industry Association supports Congressman Mark Udall's amendment to the Interior, Environment and, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill concerning the implementation of RS 2477 claims on federal lands.

Outdoor Industry Association represents the active outdoor recreation industry consisting of more than 4000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers in the outdoor industry. OIA works to ensure that federal lands are managed in a way that allows hikers, backpackers, paddlers, mountain bicyclists, anglers and climbers the opportunity to take in the beauty of a quiet forest or desert.

OIA is concerned that the Administration's current policy regarding RS2477 rights-of-way jeopardizes landscapes throughout the West, including National Parks, wilderness study areas and pristine recreation destinations. The policy could result in hundreds of hiking trails, streambeds and little used two-tracks being turned into full-fledged roads. This potential damage and development threatens the active outdoor recreation economy that many Western rural areas are dependent upon.

OIA strongly urges member of Congress to take action to ensure that RS 2477 claims are legitimate and are subject to a rigorous administrative process that is inclusive of all interests.

Representative Mark Udall's amendment will halt the implementation of the current misguided policy. Please vote yes on Mr. Udall's amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Amy Roberts
Director of Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association