

**RV** INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION



***RVs MOVE  
AMERICA.ORG***

2018 POLICY AGENDA

# WHO IS THE RV INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION?

The RV Industry Association is the national trade association representing the businesses who build more than 98% of all RVs produced in the U.S.—including motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth wheel travel trailers, folding camping trailers, park model RVs and truck campers. We are the unifying force for safety and professionalism within the RV industry and work with federal and state policy makers to promote and protect the RV industry and our members.



## Government Affairs:

Advocates for the RV industry at the federal and state level to create a favorable business environment, protect against onerous legislation and regulations and make it easier for consumers to buy, drive and own an RV.



## Statistics & Research:

Drives new research on industry trends and consumer behaviors by providing the most up-to-date industry trends, forecast and market information.



## Industry Standards & Inspection Program:

Utilizes a team of inspectors who audit the member manufacturer's compliance with the industry's standards and educate member manufacturers on certain existing, future and revised regulations.



## Go RVing:

Engages with consumers to build interest in the RV lifestyle.

# ECONOMIC IMPACT THE RV INDUSTRY:



Contributes  
**\$50 Billion** to  
U.S. Economy



Supports  
**290,000**  
full-time jobs



Pays  
**\$15.8 Billion**  
in wages



Pays  
**\$5.7 Billion**  
in taxes



**10.3 Million**  
households own  
an RV

See the impact of the RV industry in each state and congressional district at [www.RVsMoveAmerica.org](http://www.RVsMoveAmerica.org).

## Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) Funding

In December 2016, Congress unanimously passed the “Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016” directing the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), to conduct an assessment and analysis of the U.S. outdoor recreation economy and its contributions to the overall U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

## In February 2018, BEA released a preliminary estimate of outdoor recreation's impact on the U.S.

- **2%** of the U.S. GDP and growing at a faster rate than the overall economy
- **\$673 billion** in direct economic output
- **4.3 million** U.S. jobs

**ACTION** ▶

Support funding for continuation and expansion of ORSA in FY2019 and beyond.

# CAMPGROUND MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION

Public lands and waters managed by federal agencies cover nearly one-third of the nation's surface and host more than one billion visits annually. Outdoor recreation is the number one driver of economic activity on federal lands and every dollar invested in the National Park Service subsequently returns ten dollars to the U.S. economy. RV consumers rely on federal infrastructure for safe and enjoyable experiences, but deteriorating and inadequate campgrounds, roads, bridges, water systems and other utilities reduce enjoyment and add safety concerns. Many federal campgrounds were constructed more than 60 years ago during the Eisenhower Era and were not built or equipped to accommodate today's more technologically advanced and larger RVs or handle the demand from the booming RV industry.

RV sales and ownership continue to grow at record levels, but unfortunately, during the same period RV stays at National Park Service (NPS) campgrounds have drastically declined—even though state and private campgrounds are posting significant growth.



## HOW TO IMPROVE FEDERAL CAMPGROUNDS:



Adoption of the nationally recognized NFPA 1194: Standard for RV Parks and Campgrounds



Pull-through RV campsites



More campgrounds and RV accessible campsites to accommodate the growing RV industry



Campsites with site-specific hookups, including 50-amp electrical service, water and sewer as well as modern dump stations



Wider, longer and level campsites for modern RVs



Improved bathing facilities with hot showers, sinks and flush toilets



Wi-Fi throughout campsites to provide enhanced programming and safety while also appealing to current and next-generation campers and mobile professionals

**89%** of consumers purchase RVs to go camping

### ACTIONS ▼

1. Support the bipartisan Recreation Not Red-Tape Act (S. 1633 and H.R. 3400), which will improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities on federal public lands.

2. Support the bipartisan National Park Restoration Act (S. 2509 and H.R. 5210), an innovative solution to help overcome the more than \$11 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks.

3. Support increased investment in campgrounds on public lands and use of public-private partnerships to address this need.

# TRADE, TARIFFS AND TAX

## NAFTA 2.0

The United States is the world's largest producer of RVs, producing twice as many RVs as the rest of the world combined. The RV industry has strong trade relations with Canada and Mexico and depends on a strong trilateral agreement.



In 2015, RV exports totaled \$1.2 billion.



Over 90 percent of all RV exports go to Canada, accounting for nearly 10% of all U.S. RV shipments. Over 53,000 American built RVs were exported to Canada in 2017.



Mexico is also a top recipient country for RV shipments, with 2% of shipments.

### SYNCHRONIZE RV STANDARDS:

**Negotiate provision to allow either U.S. or Canadian electrical wiring. This will permit RVs to be built to the RV standards in either the U.S. or Canada (NFPA 1192 or CSA Z240 respectively) and be acceptable in both countries.**

## STEEL AND ALUMINUM TARIFFS

The scope of the steel and aluminum tariffs that have been enacted is far too broad to have the intended effect and will only create new challenges for American businesses to the benefit of foreign competitors. Steel and aluminum tariffs negatively impact U.S. RV production in several ways:

- The tariffs will have a significant adverse impact on domestic manufacturers who use steel and aluminum through increased production costs.
- Domestic steel and aluminum supplier costs have already risen as a result of the tariffs causing domestic component prices to increase.
- The Section 232 tariffs indirectly subsidize RV Industry Association members' foreign competitors.
- Prices to the consumer on RV models at retail are up 8.5% in April 2018 versus the same time last year.

## ACTIONS ▼

1. Support American-made RVs by voicing your concern to the Department of Commerce on the downstream impacts steel and aluminum tariffs have on U.S. manufacturing industries.

2. Advocate for trade policies that specifically target the bad actors in foreign trade, not all trading partners.

## TAX

The passage of comprehensive tax reform and the lowering of the corporate tax rate has benefited the RV industry and allowed the historic boom times to continue.

Unfortunately, a definition change in one section of the bill has unintentionally resulted in effectively removing travel trailers from the definition of "motor vehicle" for the purposes of floor plan financing interest deductibility. The final version of the bill allows all floor plan financing interest charges on motorhomes to remain a deductible expense, but because of the change in how motor vehicles are defined, floor plan interest on all towable RVs will be subject to a 30 percent limitation on interest expenses based on earnings before interest and taxes.

## ACTION ►

Support a change to the definition of "motor vehicle" in a future technical corrections bill, to ensure that towable RVs are included in the floor plan interest financing deductibility.

# RV CAUCUS

The House and Senate RV Caucus Members champion the RV industry and RV lifestyle on Capitol Hill and beyond by raising awareness of this uniquely American-made industry and supporting critical legislative and regulatory issues.

The RV Industry Association provides the House and Senate RV Caucuses opportunities for Senators, Representatives and their staff to learn more about the vital role RVs play in the outdoor recreation and travel industries through up-to-date industry information, news stories and briefings as well as educational events throughout the year.

## ACTIONS ▼

Support the \$50 billion American-made RV industry and families that enjoy the RV lifestyle by joining the House or Senate RV Caucus.

- Senate: Contact the offices of the Senate RV Caucus co-chairs, Senators Joe Donnelly (D-IN) and Joni Ernst (R-IA).
- House: Contact the offices of the House RV Caucus co-chairs, Representatives Dennis A. Ross (R-FL-15), Dina Titus (D-NV-1) and Jackie Walorski (R-IN-2).