



To Whom It May Concern:

We at the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC) within the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) within the state of Colorado are honored to express support for America's for Conservation and the Art's joint Memorandum of Understanding with UPR and SUAGM that will:

- a. Investigate the actual state and potential of the outdoor recreation economy in Puerto Rico;
- b. Identify the setbacks the industry faces and desirable public policy initiatives to be implemented;
- c. Create the Puerto Rico Office of Outdoor Recreation.

As the Director of OREC I believe that the development of a Outdoor Recreation Industry and Community Tourism/Destination office in Puerto Rico will be helpful to a sustainable recovery of the island.

In September 2018, I was honored to visit Puerto Rico and witness its potential to become an important outdoor recreation destination in the United States.

It is our opinion that the development of sustainable community tourism through outdoor recreation can be a powerful vehicle for communities to rebuild the island's economy.

As a member of a 10 state Coalition, Colorado OREC would like to express encouragement for AFC+A and its partners in the development of the *Oficina Puertorriqueña de la Recreación al Aire Libre* (OPRAL).

AFC+A has been a member of OREC's Advisory Council in Colorado since its outset, sharing leadership roles in the development and implementation of outdoor recreation in Colorado. The organization is thus familiar with both "grassroots and grasstops" workspaces and partnership strategies necessary to develop a successful outdoor recreation strategy for Puerto Rico.

In light of the above, we at OREC and OEDIT for the State of Colorado enthusiastically encourage AFC+A's efforts as we believe that it can carry out the mission it has set out to accomplish and contribute to the emergence of a new outdoor destination economy for Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Benitez'.

Director- OREC office
Luis Benitez
Director, Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

