November 2, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees’ request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

In compliance with Public Law 111–88, after 45 days, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: https://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720–7095. A similar letter has been sent to Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
November 2, 2021

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Murkowski:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees’ request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
November 2, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees’ request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720–7095. A similar letter has been sent to Ranking Member David Joyce.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
November 2, 2021

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Joyce:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees’ request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720–7095. A similar letter has been sent to Chairwoman Chellie Pingree.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure