

Statement of Glenn Casamassa
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Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining
Concerning
H.R. 995 – 21st Century Respect Act
February 7, 2018

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act. I am Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System (NFS), USDA Forest Service.

H.R. 995 affects USDA's Rural Development agency. It would, in part, direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend section 1901.202 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations to change the terminology used to describe the racial background or place of origin of people in regulations concerning USDA programs for financing and insuring loans for properties in rural areas managed by USDA's Rural Development agency.

USDA supports H.R. 995. USDA strives to ensure that each and every employee and customer feels valued and respected and that everyone enjoys a positive experience whether working for or with USDA. These changes align with this effort, and our first strategic goal, to "ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service".

We defer to Department of Interior for their views on pertinent sections of H.R. 995.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this bill.