USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

June 24, 2024

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, section 8702(g)(6), that the Secretary submit to Congress a report that, with respect to appointments made under the pilot program compared to appointments to resource advisory committees not made under the pilot program a description of the extent to which: 1) appointments were faster or slower; 2) the requirements described in section 8702(4) differ; and a recommendation with respect to whether Congress should terminate, continue, modify, or expand the pilot program.

After 45 days from the date of this letter, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/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 is being sent to Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure