



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a copy of the first report regarding actions taken to carry out Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). The report provides an update regarding progress made since enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill and includes a description of all acres designated, and projects treated, under the authority.

The 2014 Farm Bill amends the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) by adding Sections 602 and 603 to Title VI of HFRA. In 2003, Congress passed HFRA, "to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire across the landscape, and for other purposes.

Section 602 of HFRA outlines the designation requirements for landscape scale areas; clarifies the purpose of projects carried out in landscape scale areas; authorizes the use of HFRA National Environmental Policy Act provisions; and sets forth reporting requirements for the implementation of Section 602 authorities. Section 603 of HFRA creates a new categorical exclusion to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, insect or disease infestation in areas designated under Section 602.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Mike Conaway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sonny Perdue", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Mike Conaway
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Conaway:

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Collin Peterson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" and last name "Perdue" clearly visible.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure



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Washington, D.C. 20250

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts:

Enclosed is a copy of the first report regarding actions taken to carry out Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). The report provides an update regarding progress made since enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill and includes a description of all acres designated, and projects treated, under the authority.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Stabenow:

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Pat Roberts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sonny Perdue", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure