USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

August 21, 2023

THE HONORABLE CHELLIE PINGREE
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pingree:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response to Division O, Section 104 of Public Law 115-141 (H.R. 1625-712 to 714), known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Act), 2018. In general terms, the report analyzes cost drivers, the effectiveness of risk management techniques, effectiveness of suppression operations, effectiveness of fuels treatments, firefighter exposure, suggested corrective actions and lessons learned. The full reporting requirements identified in legislation can be found in Appendix C.

In compliance with Public Law 117-328 Section 7016, after 45 days, 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 Chairman Mike Simpson.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure