Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

August 21, 2023

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
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 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 Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure