

Office of the Secretary Washington, DC 20250

July 5, 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 the Committee's request, in House Report 117-400, to supply a report on the schedule for replacement of all wastewater treatment facilities and how higher construction costs have impacted the project estimates.

In compliance with Public Law 117-328 Section 7016, after 45 days, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: <u>https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance</u>.

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