



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-0108

June 1, 2026

THE HONORABLE JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Merkley,

Thank you for your April 22, 2026, letter to Secretary Rollins, cosigned by Ranking Member Chellie Pingree, regarding the proposed reorganization of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

The Forest Service is complying with all statutory requirements as set forth in applicable laws, including Public Law (P.L.) 119-74. The Forest Service may implement reorganizations after notifying Congress of a reorganization plan. The Agency provided notification of its reorganization plans on March 31, 2026, and on April 2, 2026.

The Forest Service is following years of precedent and the Supreme Court decision in *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919 (1983) in which the Court held that one-house legislative vetoes are invalid because, as an exercise of legislative power, they are subject to the bicameralism and presentment requirements in Article I of the Constitution. That same rationale applies to similar provisions relating to approvals by Congressional committees, including Section 421 of Division C of the *Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026* (P.L. 119-74).

This reorganization is an exciting opportunity to re-evaluate how the Forest Service works, the services and opportunities that the Agency provides, and how we serve the American people and steward our shared landscapes. Reorganization will align workforce size with available resources, bring USDA closer to its customers, eliminate management layers, and consolidate redundant support functions. The Forest Service has operated under long-standing budget constraints, increasing demands on our workforce, and a growing need to shift resources and authority closer to where our work happens: on the ground, alongside States, Tribes, partners, and neighboring communities. Implementing this reorganization will more effectively utilize limited budgets and restore agency flexibility to be responsive to the needs of the American people.

Thank you, again, for your letter. If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. We sent a copy of this letter to Ranking Member Pingree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a large loop at the end.

Michael K. Boren
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture