



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

FEB 26 2018

Mr. James Caswell
Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
Post Office Box 273362
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527

Dear Mr. Caswell:

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 2018, regarding OneUSDA. I am impressed by the dedication of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service retired employees to the Agency, its mission, and the lands it manages on behalf of the American people.

We appreciate your organization's support for OneUSDA, and we welcome your pledge to help strengthen the Department's effectiveness, efficiency, and customer service. We agree that the real work gets done at the field level; particularly, by working with partners, cooperators, communities, State, local, and Tribal governments, and other Federal entities.

The Forest Service helps promote prosperity, and improves the quality of life for rural communities. National forests contain abundant resources, including forest products, energy and minerals, and provide recreation opportunities. Entrepreneurs and rural businesses transform these resources into products valued around the world, helping all to grow and prosper. The Forest Service is working to streamline processes and improve coordination to create conditions in which rural economies thrive. We thank you for your support for this work.

Again, thank you for your letter and your service. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

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

Sonny Perdue
Secretary