June 27, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

The United States Forest Service is in a very critical situation at this time. The absence of a confirmed USDA Undersecretary for the Natural Resources and Environment mission area has put the Agency at a major disadvantage, especially as we face yet another severe wildfire season. President Donald Trump nominated James Hubbard for this position for which he is extremely well qualified.

Mr. Hubbard has unquestionable qualifications for this Undersecretary position. He is widely respected and highly regarded nationwide for his experience, wisdom, and leadership skills in the management of National Forests, State Forests, Tribal Forests, and private forests. He is trusted and respected in every aspect of natural resource management. The Administration, USDA, and the Forest Service will be very fortunate to have Mr. Hubbard as Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important request. We look forward to helping your committee in any way that we can.
Sincerely,

James L. Caswell  
James L. Caswell, Chair  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Larry R. Payne  
Larry R. Payne, Vice-Chairman  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

cc: Acting Chief of the Forest Service  
    Secretary of Agriculture