



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

August 27, 2021

Mr. James L. Caswell
Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
Box 273362
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80527

Dear Mr. Caswell:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2021, conveying your appreciation for former U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Chief Victoria Christiansen's service, and offering your perspective on selecting the next Forest Service Chief. I apologize for the delayed response.

I extend my thanks to you and the members of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees for your dedicated service and support to the Forest Service. We share your conviction that the Agency will continue to have an important role in the realm of climate change, landscape restoration, wildfire risk reduction, planning, and increased recreational demand.

It is also critical for the Agency to continue its forward progress in addressing workforce issues such as racial equity, safety, and work environment. I am grateful to Chief Randy Moore for taking on this critical role for the agency, and am certain he will provide thoughtful, balanced leadership to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Forest Service, including those you outlined.

Again, thank you for writing. If you require further assistance, please contact Claudette Fernandez, Deputy Chief of Business Operations, at (202) 205-1707 or claudette.fernandez@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Tom J. Vilsack", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary