

June 19, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

The Society of American Foresters (SAF), representing more than 11,000 forestry professionals, and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), representing the nation's 59 state and territorial foresters, strongly support President Donald Trump's nomination of Jim Hubbard as undersecretary of the Natural Resources and the Environment mission area within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). SAF and NASF have full confidence that Mr. Hubbard has the vision, leadership skills, and necessary experience to lead the Forest Service. With the legislative session extending into August, SAF and NASF urge this committee to confirm Mr. Hubbard's appointment as soon as possible.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in forestry, Mr. Hubbard has championed active and collaborative forest management on both public and private lands. He not only understands the many challenges facing the Forest Service, but also understands that working forests are key to meeting many of our nation's most pressing social, environmental, and economic needs. His 20 years of experience as Colorado's state forester, combined with ten years serving as deputy chief of State and Private Forestry, make him uniquely qualified for this critical undersecretary role.

With the 2018 wildfire year well underway, Mr. Hubbard's fire management expertise is needed now more than ever. The timely appointment of Mr. Hubbard will ensure our nation's forest managers are empowered to plan and implement important management activities for the upcoming fall and spring field seasons, reducing future wildfire risks and benefiting rural economies.

We appreciate the important work of your committee in developing the next farm bill. Now, we respectfully ask you to turn your attention to the nation's forests and expedite the confirmation of Mr. Hubbard as undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We look forward to continuing our work with Mr. Hubbard and your committee.

Sincerely,

Dave Lewis
SAF President
Certified Forester

George Geissler
NASF President
Washington State Forester