May 4, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

The National Association of State Foresters would like to express its full support for President Donald Trump’s nomination of James Hubbard as undersecretary of the Agriculture Department’s Natural Resources and Environment mission area.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in forestry, Jim has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to promoting active management across all of the nation’s forests. His hallmark, in fact, has been his ardent support of cross-boundary forest and wildfire management. The nation’s state and territorial foresters also believe that Jim thoroughly understands the complexity and interconnectedness of the local, state, and federal systems we use to control wildfires.

For ten years, Jim served as deputy chief of State and Private Forestry, managing all of the USDA Forest Service's cooperative forestry programs and its fire and aviation division, which accounts for half of the agency's total budget. This experience, combined with 20 years of service as Colorado's state forester, has made Jim both keenly aware of the risks posed by cross-boundary forest threats and aptly equipped to address these threats in collaborative, cost-effective ways.

The nation’s state and territorial foresters welcome the wealth of knowledge Jim would bring to his new post and look forward to advancing comprehensive, landscape-scale forest management nationwide, together in partnership with the Agriculture Department.

Sincerely,

George Geissler  
NASF President  
Oklahoma State Forester