



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 19 2017

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

Dear Mr. Caswell:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2017, regarding Executive Order 13790, Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America, signed by President Donald J. Trump on April 25, 2017, and the invitation to rural stakeholders to participate in making suggestions to the Task Force regarding legislative, regulatory, and policy changes. I apologize for the delayed response.

I share the goal of expanding opportunities in rural communities. There is no better agency to lead this effort than the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and I look forward to ideas and suggestions of the Department's Forest Service retirees as we work to advance Federal policies that foster the economic productivity and responsible management of our Nation's forests. Community collaboration will be the key to our success.

We value the experience and insight of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and thousands of community partners nationwide. We could not accomplish our mission for the American public without you.

We look forward to hearing more of your ideas. You can submit additional comments to ruralprosperity@osec.usda.gov. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary