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February 25, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Committee Chairman, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is very appreciative of the hearing you held on February 6, 2020 to discuss the equity of Forest Service appropriations for transportation and infrastructure, compared to those received by Department of Interior agencies.

NAFSR represents Forest Service retirees with several thousand years of experience across all states. We know the needs of the land, we

know the national public we serve, and we know the needs of the communities served by the 193 million acres of National Forest land.

Many of our conservation partners have already informed you of their support for increased funding to manage the huge amount of the Forest Service deferred maintenance backlog. Therefore, we won't repeat the miles of roads, trails, the number of bridges, and the number of facilities, recreation sites, and dams that the Forest Service manages.

We are also aware that several members of Congress are supportive of increased infrastructure appropriations for the Agency. We are not asking for special treatment for the Forest Service,

just a fair share based on the Forest Service infrastructure responsibilities they have compared to Department of Interior agencies.

We sincerely appreciate the positive news we are hearing from your committee regarding more support for the Forest Service infrastructure backlog. We urge you to continue your support and consideration for making this a reality. We pledge the full support of NAFSR for any assistance or information you need.

Sincerely,

James L. Caswell

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