MAY 12 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski:

Enclosed is a description of the role of law enforcement and investigations in the forest planning process, including an attachment describing the status of marijuana cultivation on National Forests.

In the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, Congress directed the Forest Service to report to the Committees on the steps taken to include law enforcement and investigations as an integral participant in the annual forest planning process to ensure stronger collaboration among all partners and focused enforcement strategies aimed at safety, interdiction, and mitigation of illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands.

In compliance with Public Law 111-88, after 45 days, this report will post to the Forest Service Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/congressional-directives.shtml.

A similar letter and the report are being sent to Senator Tom Udall, Congressman Ken Calvert, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures
MAY 12 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

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In the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, Congress directed the Forest Service to report to the Committees on the steps taken to include law enforcement and investigations as an integral participant in the annual forest planning process to ensure stronger collaboration among all partners and focused enforcement strategies aimed at safety, interdiction, and mitigation of illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures
The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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[Signature]

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures