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:

Pursuant to House Report 114–170, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing a report regarding personal-use firewood permits and sales. As directed, we are providing historical information regarding the personal use of firewood from national forests, as well as firewood’s relation to the Federal timber program.

The Forest Service (FS) has provided people firewood, as a public service, since its inception. Funding for selling and administering firewood, as well as other special forest products, is included in the annual Forest Products Line Item. The agency has traditionally reported firewood in the total annual volume of timber sold (i.e., the output of the Federal timber program).

The majority of firewood is typically sold through a simple contract (permit) to individual people. Commercial firewood sales are available. The agency has not tracked firewood by personal versus commercial use. The annual volume of firewood is determined by the number of people requesting a permit. The demand for firewood increases during economic downturns. Demand slowly declines as the economy improves.

FS started reporting firewood volumes as a separate category in the late 1970's. The highest reported volume of firewood sold was in 1985 at almost 800 million board feet (MMBF) and accounted for 7.3 percent of the total volume sold. The average annual volume of firewood sold over the past 10 years is approximately 288 MMBF. About 282 MMBF of firewood was sold in fiscal year 2015 accounting for 9.8 percent of the total program.

The enclosed graph shows the relationship of total timber volume to firewood volume over the last 10 years. In compliance with Public Law 111–88, after 45 days, this report will post to FS’s Web site at, http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/congressional-directives.shtml. A similar letter and graph are being sent to Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Tom Udall, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

Enclosure
Total Forest Products Volume and Firewood Volume
FY 2006 - FY 2015

Volume in MMBF
(Million Board Feet)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Volume</th>
<th>Firewood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,835</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Udall:

Pursuant to House Report 114–170, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing a report regarding personal-use firewood permits and sales. As directed, we are providing historical information regarding the personal use of firewood from national forests, as well as firewood's relation to the Federal timber program.

The Forest Service (FS) has provided people firewood, as a public service, since its inception. Funding for selling and administering firewood, as well as other special forest products, is included in the annual Forest Products Line Item. The agency has traditionally reported firewood in the total annual volume of timber sold (i.e., the output of the Federal timber program).

The majority of firewood is typically sold through a simple contract (permit) to individual people. Commercial firewood sales are available. The agency has not tracked firewood by personal versus commercial use. The annual volume of firewood is determined by the number of people requesting a permit. The demand for firewood increases during economic downturns. Demand slowly declines as the economy improves.

FS started reporting firewood volumes as a separate category in the late 1970's. The highest reported volume of firewood sold was in 1985 at almost 800 million board feet (MMBF) and accounted for 7.3 percent of the total volume sold. The average annual volume of firewood sold over the past 10 years is approximately 288 MMBF. About 282 MMBF of firewood was sold in fiscal year 2015 accounting for 9.8 percent of the total program.

The enclosed graph shows the relationship of total timber volume to firewood volume over the last 10 years. In compliance with Public Law 111–88, after 45 days, this report will post to FS’s Web site at, http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/congressional-directives.shtml. A similar letter and graph are being sent to Senator Lisa Murkowski, Congressman Ken Calvert, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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

Dear Madam Chair:  

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

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FY 2006 - FY 2015

Volume in MMBF (Million Board Feet)

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The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on 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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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

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