



DENNIS DAUGAARD  
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
CHAIR

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
VICE CHAIR

JAMES D. OGSBURY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 14, 2018

Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

Western Governors write to convey our strong support for the nomination of James Hubbard to be Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and urge your expedited consideration of his nomination.

Mr. Hubbard has an extensive background in forest practice and policy at both the state and federal levels. His deep understanding of the difficulties our nation's public lands managers face will be a significant asset for the Department. His long experience as a state forester will likewise serve him well in recognizing the importance of state and federal interagency collaboration to address the myriad challenges faced by federal, state and private landowners. He also understands how national forests affect local economies and the need to provide sustainable economic opportunities for our rural communities.

Western Governors realize the Committee has many pressing responsibilities in coming months, including legislative action on the 2018 Farm Bill. We hope you will take the time, however, to consider Mr. Hubbard's nomination as quickly as feasible. His confirmation will provide needed stability to USDA's management structure and enable him to provide leadership to the U.S. Forest Service as we head into this summer's wildfire season.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with Mr. Hubbard in his new capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dennis Daugaard'.

Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota  
Chair, WGA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Ige'.

David Ige  
Governor of Hawaii  
Vice Chair, WGA