

## United States Senate

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Homer Wilkes  
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Wilkes,

I write to thank you and your team for committing to an in-person public forum (with an opportunity for other Hoosiers to participate via teleconference) at the Orange County Community Center in Paoli, Indiana, on Monday, April 3, 2023. The public forum will serve as an opportunity for my constituents to comment on the proposed Buffalo Springs Restoration Project. As we discussed, it will also serve as the first listening session for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) upcoming revision for the Hoosier National Forest's (HNF) Land and Resource Management Plan.

I look forward to having you back in the Hoosier State to discuss the future of the HNF. I appreciated the chance to visit with you and a group of my constituents on July 29, 2022, in the HNF. That meeting, as you know, led to an agreement to provide a transparent process to incorporate public comment into the Buffalo Springs Restoration Project and to reassess the Land and Resource Management Plan for the HNF.

I know you share my belief that the HNF, including the proposed treatment area for the Buffalo Springs Restoration Project, is a unique American ecosystem with immense opportunity for recreation, education, and conservation. I look forward to continuing our conversation about the HNF on April 3 in Paoli.

Sincerely,



Mike Braun  
U.S. Senator