

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Christiansen:

I write to ask for an update on the U.S. Forest Service's 10-year appraisal of the payment formula under the Thye-Blatnik Act.

As you are aware, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties in northern Minnesota have received Thye-Blatnik payments for more than 70 years due to the federal lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and the Superior National Forest located in their jurisdictions. These payments have helped to offset lost property tax revenue as a result of non-taxable Federal lands in these counties.

These Thye-Blatnik payments support crucial services in these counties, including law enforcement, firefighting, infrastructure improvements, and search and rescue operations within the BWCAW. These services benefit not only the Minnesotans who live in the area, but also the visitors who travel there from around the state and nation to spend time in the federal forest and wilderness areas. It is for this reason that I respectfully request an update on when the results of the U.S. Forest Service's recent appraisal of the Superior National Forest will be available, as well as additional information concerning how the Forest Service arrived at the new payment valuation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate