

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Rep. Sharice L. Davids**  
**Kansas Third District**

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Tom Schultz  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
201 14<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Chief Schultz and Director Vought,

I write to you today regarding fiscal year 2025 federal funding for the Kansas Forest Service (KFS). KFS relies heavily on federal funding – often 60 to 80 percent of its annual budget – to tackle critical projects, including firefighting, mitigating invasive species, improving soil health, and protecting agricultural production.

However, nearly five months have passed since Congress passed into law FY2025 appropriations through the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act*, yet the Kansas Forest Service (KFS) has still not received its annual funding from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

While this administration sits on these critical investments it is required to spend, firefighters across Kansas are worried about the impact this will have across the state. Additionally, this delay is part of a troubling trend that includes:

- President Trump proposing a 35 percent cut to the USFS budget for FY2026,
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) publicly threatening to use pocket rescissions to illegally withhold congressionally approved funding, and
- The administration terminating a \$1 million tree-planting award for Olathe, Kansas.

Meanwhile, the administration is drawing on \$43 million in state and local grants — including funding from the Forest Stewardship and Urban and Community Forestry Programs, which KFS is expecting — to cover the cost of its reckless staffing reductions.

Without its federal appropriation, KFS will be forced to make drastic cuts throughout the state. These cuts will affect:

- Rural fire department support, including training for more than 1,500 fire fighters, more than 30 public education events, and direct assistance with the 4,000 annual wildfires in Kansas,

- Private landowners through the loss of technical assistance consultations, forest management practice plans, and forestry cost-share program contracts,
- Support for community forestry planting in Tree City USA locations such as Overland Park, Ottawa, and De Soto, Kansas, and
- The detecting, identifying, tracking, and managing of destructive invasive species that threaten my state's agricultural yields.

Urban canopies, rural forests, and privately-owned woodlands provide countless benefits to Kansans across the state. If KFS does not receive the funding it's owed by the USFS, the agency will be forced to lay off staff and cut services that support our farmers, cool our cities, clean our air, and beautify Kansas communities.

It is my understanding that OMB has now released this funding to the USFS. However, with fewer than two months remaining in the fiscal year, the USFS must act quickly to distribute these awards before September 30 and ensure that KFS and other state forestry agencies do not suffer a lapse in services due to your delays.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Eric Dunay in my office at [eric.dunay@mail.house.gov](mailto:eric.dunay@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress