

Statement of Glenn Casamassa
Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System
U.S. Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture
Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining
Concerning
S. 2297 – Custer County Airport Conveyance Act
August 22, 2018

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding S. 2297 – Custer County Airport Conveyance Act. I am Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System (NFS), USDA Forest Service.

S. 2297 would convey, for market value consideration, all right, title, and interest in approximately 65.7 acres of National Forest System land on the Black Hills National Forest to Custer County, South Dakota for the continued operation of the Custer County Regional Airport.

USDA supports S. 2297. Airport infrastructure authorized under a special use permit currently occupies the subject NFS lands which are consequently not generally available for NFS multiple-use purposes. Conveying the lands would allow Custer County greater flexibility in operating the facility which provides an important service to residents and visitors in western South Dakota.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this bill and I look forward to your questions at the appropriate time.