

**Questions from Chairman Westerman** for Mr. John Crockett, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

Deputy Chief Crockett, I was pleased that your testimony mentioned the U.S. Forest Service is actively working with Mr. Collins of Provo, Utah, to administratively issue him a permit he has been denied for years. Can you commit to expediting the administrative process for issuing this permit so that the American flag can be flown from Kyhv Peak in time for Fourth of July celebrations this year, during America's 250th birthday?

**Response:**

**Forest Service remains in close contact with Mr. Collins regarding his application for a special use permit for the flagpole on Kyhv Peak. In mid-January, the agency provided Mr. Collins with the application materials and recommendations to help expedite completion. On February 27th, Mr. Collins submitted a special use permit application for the flagpole. The agency's next steps include initiating an operating plan with Mr. Collins, completing NEPA compliance with a focus on streamlining the process where possible, and then finalizing the operating plan. The Forest Service also continues to coordinate with Rep. Kennedy's staff to provide updates on the permitting process. The Forest Service is on track to issue the permit by the requested deadline of the Fourth of July.**