

DATE

The Honorable Joe Smith
United States Senate/House of Representatives
Address
Address
City, ST ZIP

SUBJECT: Request to maintain federal funding for the URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Dear Senator Smith / Mr./Ms. Smith:

As you are probably aware, our cities and communities are more livable and sustainable when our urban forests are managed for the many critical benefits that trees provide. Trees help prevent water pollution by slowing storm water run-off and controlling erosion. Trees filter air pollutants, reduce “urban heat islands” and store carbon. In addition, trees conserve energy by reducing cooling needs in our homes and businesses. Trees also increase property values and provide both habitat and food for wildlife. Trees also have been proven to have a positive effect on human health and well-being, and are a significant characteristic of many communities throughout North Carolina.

I am writing to let you know the value of the North Carolina Forest Service’s Urban & Community Forestry Program (http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban_Forestry.htm). This relatively small program, authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-313) as amended, operates as a cooperative partnership between the NC Forest Service and USDA Forest Service. In NC, a staff of 2.5 employees provide technical support (free or low cost workshops, site visits and reports) and sub-grants to local governments and non-profits throughout North Carolina, including the NC Urban Forest Council (www.ncufc.org).

Community/Organization is grateful for past support of Federal funding for the Urban & Community Forestry Program and the services it provides on its meager budget. We would urge you to support continued funding of this valuable program. Leveraging federal and state programs such as these has enabled many communities in North Carolina to improve, expand, and increase their ability to manage their urban forest resources, which benefits all North Carolinians and the resources we are so blessed to be surrounded by.

IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY SPECIFIC SUPPORT OR FUNDING OR ATTENDED WORKSHOPS OR CONFERENCES OVER THE YEARS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DESCRIBE IT HERE.

I am including some information about urban forestry in North Carolina as well as some of the specific accomplishments of and efforts by the NCFCS Urban & Community Forestry Program and Urban Forest Council to leverage the federal funds for the benefits of all North Carolinians. Please share this information with your counterparts on the appropriations committee, as well.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me, your title? at 999-555-0123 or at you@email.com.

Sincerely,

You, title, Your community/organization if any