

Jared Blumenfeld, Director, Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco
Daniel A. Sider, Director of City Greening, Office of the Mayor

April 19, 2007

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Committee Members:

Re: US Forest Service FY 2008 Budget

We are writing to express concern over the President's FY 2008 Budget for the US Forest Service **Urban and Community Forest Program** and to urge additional investment in **urban forest research within the Forest Service Research and Development Budget**.

The City and County of San Francisco is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy urban forest for everyone. San Francisco is home to over 668,000 trees that provide environmental, social and economic benefits. In addition to our municipal urban forest programs, a robust network of nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups build a stronger community through tree planting and maintenance.

San Francisco and the Bay Area have directly benefited from US Forest Service programs for urban forest research and technical assistance. The US Forest Service performed two studies in San Francisco, which provided us with valuable information on the tree population, environmental benefits, and economic benefits.

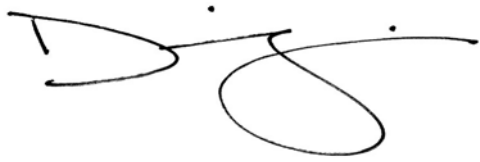
The President's proposed FY 2008 budget would reduce support for the Urban and Community Forestry program by 38% from FY 2007, which is a step in the wrong direction. Instead we urge you to support the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition's recommendation **to fund the Urban and Community Forest Program at \$50 million and urban forestry research within the Research and Development budget at \$6 million**.

We are witnessing a national movement to meet the challenges of climate change and growing the urban forest is one positive strategy. San Francisco is leading the way through our innovative partnerships, programs and policies, but we need federal support to bring this to fruition.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld
Director, Department of the Environment

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line and a large loop.

Daniel A. Sider
Director of City Greening, Office of Mayor Newsom