



Analysis

The House passed its version of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act on 1/21/09. Full bill text is viewable at: http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111_hr1_text.pdf

The House bill includes three items that could benefit urban forestry stakeholders:

- Forest Service: **\$550 million for State and Private Forestry**, including language which references “city forest enhancements” as an intended use.
- Dept. of Energy: **\$3.5 billion for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants**
- Dept. of Labor: **\$750 million for worker training** in high growth industries, of which \$500 million is for green jobs addressing renewable energy or energy efficiency.

The Senate bill S.336 was released 1/27/09 and will be voted on by the full Senate in the coming days. Full bill text is viewable here:

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/>

The Senate version contains several programs of relevance to urban forestry groups:

- Forest Service: **\$350 million for State and Private Forestry**, “using all authorities available to the Forest Service”, but does not include language to reference urban forestry as an intended use.
- Dept. of Energy: **\$4.2 billion for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants**
- Dept. of Labor: **\$3.4 billion for job training** including “green jobs”

Suggested Actions:

- Urge Congress to fund \$550 million for State and Private Forestry, and further advocate that \$150 million of that amount be directed at *city forest enhancements*.
- At the local level, approach elected officials and sustainability officers to show how trees can be used to reduce homeowners’ energy costs. Position urban forestry projects to be eligible for funding from your city’s energy block grants program. This is a significant future potential funding source. Use Sacramento’s SMUD shade tree program as an example for what could be done in your community.

Timing:

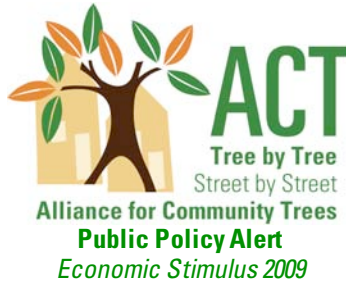
- The full Senate is taking up the Senate bill this week (Feb 2-6) and is expected to vote as soon as possible. After that House and Senate negotiators will iron out differences between the House and Senate versions. Please contact your elected officials, especially SENATE members ASAP by phone and follow up with a FAX letter to their office restating your position.

House Bill Excerpts:

WILDLANDFIREMANAGEMENT (Including Transfers of Funds)

For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, \$850,000,000, of which \$300,000,000 is for hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, wood to energy grants and rehabilitation and restoration activities





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on Federal lands, and of which \$550,000,000 is for State fire assistance hazardous fuels projects, volunteer fire assistance, cooperative forest health projects, city forest enhancements, and wood to energy grants on State and private lands: Provided, That amounts in this paragraph may be transferred to “State and Private Forestry” and “National Forest System”: Provided further, That the amount set aside from this appropriation pursuant to section 1106 of this Act shall be not more than 5 percent instead of the percentage specified in such section.

\$3,500,000,000 shall be for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, for implementation of programs authorized under subtitle E of title V of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17151 et seq.).

\$750,000,000 for a program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors: Provided,

That \$500,000,000 shall be for research, labor exchange and job training projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries specified in section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the WIA (as amended by the Green Jobs Act of 2007): Provided further, That in awarding grants from those funds not designated in the preceding proviso, the Secretary of Labor shall give priority to projects that prepare workers for careers in the health care sector: Provided further,

That the provisions of section 1103 of this Act shall not apply to this appropriation:

Senate Excerpts:

S 336 PCS

WILDLANDFIREMANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, \$650,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010, for hazardous fuels reduction and hazard mitigation activities in areas at high risk of catastrophic wildfire, of which \$350,000,000 is available for work on State and private lands using all the authorities available to the Forest Service: Provided, That of the funds provided for State and private land fuels reduction activities, up to \$50,000,000 may be used to make grants for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from national forest lands.

Training and Employment Services: \$3.4 billion for job training including State formula grants for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs (including \$1.2 billion to create up to one million summer jobs for youth). The training and employment needs of workers also will be met through dislocated worker national emergency grants, new competitive grants for worker training in high growth and emerging industry sectors (with priority consideration to “green” jobs and healthcare), and increased funds for the Job Corps and YouthBuild programs. Green jobs training will include preparing workers for activities supported by other economic recovery funds, such as retrofitting of buildings, green construction, and the production of renewable electric power.

