



January 26, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2314 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks, Chairman
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Ranking Member
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Dear Representatives Obey, Lewis, Dicks, and Simpson:

On behalf of the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition, thank you for including *city forest enhancements* in the House Appropriations Committee's economic stimulus package. The investment in US Forest Service, State and Private Forestry programs proposed by your committee will create thousands of green jobs in both rural and urban areas, stimulating the economy while investing in the green infrastructure that sustains our nation.

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition represents 20 national organizations who understand the immense economic, environmental, and health benefits city forests provide to the more than 80% of Americans who live in urban areas.

Taxpayer dollars invested in planting city trees and improving the management of city forests will provide multiple benefits in terms of urban green job creation and specialized training, pollution abatement, healthier and more livable neighborhoods, energy conservation, and long-term infrastructure savings in cities throughout the United States. City forests are a critical component of

Alliance for Community Trees

American Forests

American Nursery
and Landscape Association

American Planning Association

American Public Works Association

American Society
of Consulting Arborists

American Society
of Landscape Architects

The Davey Tree Expert Company

International City/County
Management Association

International Society of Arboriculture

Keep America Beautiful

National Arbor Day Foundation

National Association
of Conservation Districts

National Association
of State Foresters

Society of American Foresters

Society of Municipal Arborists

Tree Care Industry of America

TreeLink

Utility Arborist Association

US Conference of Mayors

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities.

the proposed investment in State and Private Forestry. We are confident that the the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and state forestry agencies will effectively distribute one-time stimulus funds to the field for immediate implementation.

Again, we greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition

www.urbanforestcoalition.org
301-219-6249