

The Urban and Community Forestry Program and Urban Forest Research

WHEREAS, One of the three actions of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is to use urban forest restoration to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, trees are an integral part of urban infrastructure, as critical to the health and livability of communities as roads, sewers, and buildings; and

WHEREAS, tree canopy can help increase property values, attract redevelopment, support walkable communities, enhance tourism, and promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, urban forests provide valuable, cost effective ecological services that include energy conservation, mitigating climate change, carbon sequestration, improving air quality, reducing stormwater management demands, and supporting nutrients cycles, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, and watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) and urban forest research conducted by the US Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) provide valuable technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, U&CF was responsible in FY 2007 for providing direct assistance in all States and territories to nearly 7,000 communities where 165 million people live, comprising 77% of the 215 million Americans living in cities, suburbs and towns; and

WHEREAS, U&CF and urban forest R&D provide scientifically-based, technically accurate information and assistance to facilitate the orderly planting and proper maintenance of trees to provide maximum benefits and minimum risk to the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress fund the U&CF program annual budget at no less than \$100 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Congress fund urban forest research investments within R&D at no less than \$24 million by 2015.