DATE

The Honorable Joe Smith

United States Senate/House of Representatives

Address

Address

City, ST ZIP

**SUBJECT: Thank you for supporting the Urban & Community Forestry Program**

Dear Senator/Representative 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 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, the program provide technical assistance, education and sub-grants to local governments and non-profits to enhance urban and community forestry throughout North Carolina.

In [Year], Community/Organization received grant funds from the Urban & Community Forestry Program to strengthen our efforts to manage our urban forest:

* Funds were provided to complete our Urban and Community Forestry Project, insert title here.
* Our project will describe the project’s goals and or objectives. Also list or describe the deliverables of your project.
* The Urban & Community Forestry Program also sponsors webinars, seminars, and workshops on community forestry practices which this community’s/organization’s staff have used for training. These free or low cost events enable this community’s/organization’s staff to cost-effectively learn about good urban forest management practices to benefit the citizens of your community.

Community/Organization is grateful for the Federal funding of 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, 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 any questions regarding this community’s/organization’s urban forestry program, please contact you, your title at 999-555-0123 or at you@email.com.

Sincerely,

Name, title

Your community/organization