



The Honorable Jared Huffman
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

January 17, 2020

Dear Congressman Huffman,

The National Association of State Foresters would like to thank you for introducing HR 5311 “The Forestry Renewal Act of 2019” and championing the important role the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Committee (NUCFAC) plays in advancing urban and community forestry programs across the country.

In compliance with Farm Bill requirements, NUCFAC released its “[Ten-Year Urban Forest Action Plan \(2016-2026\)](#)” in 2016. This plan provides a national strategy for helping all communities – large and small – create community forests that are diverse, healthy, resilient, and accessible to all. Each year, NUCFAC submits an [accomplishment report](#) on the progress being made in the implementation of the plan, along with its recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The NUCFAC strategic plan has helped to expand awareness of urban forestry’s benefits, as well as increase investments in urban forest resources. It provides specific goals, actions, and recommendations for improving the status of urban and community forests all across the United States and its territories, and has been routinely used by the Forest Service and other federal agencies as a guide for implementing and expanding urban and community forestry programs.

In September 2019, the National Association of State Foresters adopted [an official resolution and policy statement](#) urging the USDA Forest Service to continue using NUCFAC’s ten-year plan as the framework for strategic and budget-related decision-making for its Urban and Community Forestry program.

The nation’s state and territorial foresters strongly support renewing NUCFAC’s charter. There is so much left to accomplish on its ten-year strategic plan that without charter renewal would be exceedingly difficult to accomplish, much less build upon.

Thank you for your support of State and Private Forestry and your efforts to renew the NUCFAC charter. We stand in support of this important legislation and efforts to pass it into law.

Sincerely,

Greg Josten
NASF President
South Dakota State Forester

Executive Director

Jay Farrell

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