



January 15, 2020

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Rayburn House Office Building 2311
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) would like to thank you for recognizing the important role trees serve in achieving energy savings, improved air quality, neighborhood stability, aesthetic value, reduced noise, and improved quality of life in communities nationwide. We write today in support of, “The Residential Energy and Economic Savings Act of 2019” (TREES Act) which would support targeted tree planting programs in residential areas across the country.

NASF represents the heads of the forestry agencies for all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. State Foresters deliver technical and financial assistance, along with forest health, water, and wildfire protection on more than two-thirds of the nation’s 751 million acres of forests. Urban trees and forests provide a wide array of social, economic, and environmental benefits to people living in urban, suburban, and even rural areas. Today, more than 83 percent of the nation’s population lives in urban areas and stands to benefit from passage of the TREES Act.

Strategically planted trees not only sequester carbon, they reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and help reduce temperatures and energy costs by providing shade. The nation’s State Foresters stand ready to cooperate with local non-profit tree planting organizations to accomplish this work and we look forward to working with you to get this legislation passed into law. Thank you again for recognizing trees as part of the solution to climate change and for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Greg Josten
NASF President
South Dakota State Forester

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

2019-20 Executive Committee

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Past President

Greg Josten, South Dakota
Joe Fox, Arkansas
Christopher Martin, Connecticut
Lisa Allen, Missouri

Northeast-Midwest Representative
West Representative
South Representative

Forrest Boe, Minnesota
Brian Cottam, Utah
Rick Oates, Alabama