

***SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATOR OR
CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
PREPARED BY
TREEPENNSYLVANIA/PA URBAN & COMMUNITY
FORESTRY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2018***



February 2018

Dear (Insert Name of Elected Senator or Congressional Representative),

The current Federal Administration has proposed a significant reduction in the budget for urban and community forestry programs throughout the nation. This funding provides essential administrative support to TreePennsylvania, an independent 501(c)3 responsible for advising the State Forester on matters related to urban and community forestry throughout the Commonwealth. The anticipated reduction, by up to 50%, would drastically and immediately impact TreePennsylvania's ability to contribute vital services to Pennsylvania communities. Urban and community forests are essential resources reliant on meaningful and wise investments of our financial resources.

TreePennsylvania, along with its many partners, engages in meaningful research, educates communities, and funds necessary projects related to urban and community forests. With funding from the US Forest Service, TreePennsylvania administers the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's TreeVitalize grant program; an overwhelmingly successful initiative which provides funding to communities to plant and maintain street and park trees. In 2017, over 1,000 new trees were funded through this innovative and essential grant program.

Through its partnership with Penn State University's Urban Forestry Extension program, TreePennsylvania is able to educate communities on how urban trees can assist with stormwater management, reduce heat island effects, provide cleaner air and water, and more sustainable and healthy neighborhoods. The five urban foresters employed through Penn State's program are reliant on these federal funds. In 2015-2016, the Extension Urban Forestry program provided educational and technical assistance to 405 Pennsylvania municipalities including 46 workshops and 177 talks to 12,336 participants.

Can you imagine your neighborhood streets without the beauty and benefit of street and park trees? Such a future is unimaginable to me and I need your help in supporting the important work of TreePennsylvania and its partners. As your constituent, I encourage you to support continued and steady federal funding for urban and community forestry through the US Forest Service.

Sincerely,

NAME/ADDRESS/ZIP