

June 10, 2010

The Honorable Donna Edwards
318 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Edwards:

We the undersigned organizations wish to express our strong support of HR 4202, Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, which creates a competitive grant program to establish Centers for Excellence for Green Infrastructure. We stand together in our interest to promote livable communities by improving green spaces and advancing urban forestry-related policies that provide multiple public benefits.

The regionally-appropriate research on green infrastructure conducted through the Centers for Excellence for Green Infrastructure will include tangible:

- Solutions for stormwater and sewer overflow reduction (approaches for water resource enhancement and other environmental, economic and social benefits);
- Development of manuals and industry standards on best management practices related to green infrastructure;
- Technical assistance to states and local governments to assist with green infrastructure projects;
- Collaboration with institutions of higher education and private and public organizations on green infrastructure research; and
- Evaluation of policy and regulatory issues surrounding green infrastructure.

The bill also establishes an EPA grant program to fund the planning and designing of green infrastructure projects including:

- Engineering surveys, landscape plans and implementation plans;
- Identifying and developing standards and revisions to local zoning, building or other local codes necessary to accommodate green infrastructure projects;
- Identifying and developing fee structures to provide financial support for the design, installation and operations and maintenance of green infrastructure projects;
- Developing training and education materials about green infrastructure for distribution to both those with applicable technical knowledge and the general; public; and
- Developing a green infrastructure portfolio standard to increase the percentage of annual water managed by local governments using green infrastructure techniques.

We strongly support the interagency approach to this legislation. To assure maximum effectiveness, we recommend that federal legislation and programs recognize the need for coordinated delivery systems at the federal, state, and local level. We appreciate your dedicated attention to these issues and look forward to working with you to advance green infrastructure strategies for the nation.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Trees
American Forests
American Planning Association
American Public Works Association
American Society of Landscape Architects

International Society of Arboriculture
National Association of Conservation Districts
Society of Municipal Arborists
Tree Care Industry Association, Inc.