



Alliance for Community Trees
American Forests
American Nursery and Landscape Association
American Planning Association
American Public Works Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
The Davey Tree Expert Company (including the Davey Resource Group)
International City/County Management Association
International Society of Arboriculture
National Arbor Day Foundation
National Association of Conservation Districts
Society of American Foresters
Society of Municipal Arborists
Tree Care Industry Association
TreeLink
Utility Arborists Association

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a national group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities.

**American Forests, <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/urbanforests/naturevalue.php>*

October 11, 2007

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation Safety,
Infrastructure Security and Water Quality,
Senate on Environment & Public Works
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Subcommittee on Transportation Safety,
Infrastructure Security and Water Quality,
Senate on Environment & Public Works
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Chairman Lautenberg:

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is writing to urge you to reauthorize and recapitalize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) by following the lead of the U.S. House and pass a Senate version of the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007 (H.R. 720). This legislation restores \$20 billion over the next five years to the clean water state revolving fund. It also reaffirms the federal commitment to clean water infrastructure and begins to address the estimated \$300 to \$500 billion funding gap between current expenditures and identified needs.

As you consider reauthorization, we urge you to include dedicated funding to expand the use of green infrastructure practices and strategies with state revolving funds. Green infrastructure is implemented in many forms but urban forestry is one of the most beneficial on several levels. Healthy urban trees absorb rainfall through their canopy and extensive root system. Trees slow and filter rain water and reduce storm water flow during storms and peak loads. In addition, more trees and green coverage mean less concrete, minimized storm-water runoff, and buffer zones for flood-prone communities.

For example, in the Metropolitan Washington DC region, the existing 46 % tree canopy reduces the need for retention structures by 949 million cubic feet, valued at \$4.7 billion per 20-year construction cycle (based on a \$5/cubic foot construction cost).* Trees and green infrastructure provide a myriad of other environmental, health and economical benefits for urban areas with long-term benefits and pay-offs.

SUFC is composed of 16 national organizations representing a cross-section of city planners, educators, landscape architects, non-profit leaders, scientists, arborists, foresters, nurserymen and women, and many other professionals who care for, monitor and advocate for trees and our urban forests as a whole.

Sincerely,

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American Forests
American Public Works Association

International Society of Arboriculture
National Arbor Day Foundation
Tree Care Industry Association
TreeLink

*Cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee*