

Policy Working Group Call June 24, 2011

Participating: Gerry, Gary, Don, Jen JH, Jake, Christi, Carrie, Hadley, Yenie, Danielle

Decision: Standing Policy Working Group Call every other Friday at 9 a.m. The next call will be July 8th at 9 a.m. Eastern Time*.

Meeting Summary:

- Review of SUFC analysis of current HR 2095 Energy Conservation Through Trees: short history, benefits and overlay with SUFC principles. Discussion ensued regarding questions and recommendations from NASF re: DOE current position on legislation, stronger coordination role with USDA FS, and reduction in potential grant recipients (residential only in re-introduction). (Many questions need further research.) There was general recognition that since the bill has been introduced as a bill of record, language changes at this point are limited and possibly counterproductive.
- *However*, WG member's on call were open to reviewing legislation language for potential changes for a Senate companion bill. Consensus on call to approach a drafting process with Senate champion (TBD). Any potential changes would then be reviewed in conference committee.
- ACT made special note that in the spirit of their respective leadership/membership *and* SUFC, they would like to see more discussion (and possible amendment) about the NGO's roles; collaboration with other tree planting entities; and clarification of the Tech Advisory Committee – in short, NGO's see importance of broad role of other agencies and entities in this legislation.
- Matsui's staff may be open to proposed "improvements and recommendations" and SUFC may be well-positioned to help carry the message/champion legislation on Hill and recruit additional supporters.
- WG will move forward with a meeting with Matsui staff to: 1) gather more information about bill (i.e. DOE position/contacts, reason for reduction in scope, possible Senate co-sponsor etc.); 2) re-introduce SUFC; and 3) alert staff to SUFC's on-going review of legislation and pending language recommendations on companion bill. General recognition that sooner vs. later to be ahead of any re-introduction on the Senate side.

Action Items:

- **Carrie** to identify contact/s at DOE via ACT past involvement.
- **Carrie/Jennifer** to follow-up with Matsui staff to get an appointment on the calendar for next week (or prior to mid July) to discuss – will circle back to WG with details.
- **Hadley** will look at SBA supporters from last year and share info. with WG as potential champions on Senate side. (Spirit of bill is similar to HR 2095)
- **WG set standing meeting: every other Friday at 9 a.m. Next meeting will be July 8th.**
- **WG** to map out suggested languages together (7/8th or earlier)?

*Jennifer Hinrichs will be on vacation (and out of cell range). Will coordinate to have back-up in place to ensure meeting goes forward.