



## Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition

### **ACTION ALERT**

DATE: October 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Farm Bill 2012

The 2012 Farm Bill is looming before Congress. Every five years, this expansive piece of legislation authorizes or reauthorizes USDA programs ranging from nutrition, food stamps, food safety, agriculture supports and rural conservation and forestry (including urban and community forestry).

In 2008, the last Farm Bill enacted dramatic changes in rural forest conservation. In 2012, the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) will make the case for important improvements in *urban and community forestry*.

Over the next few months, we have a unique window of opportunity to come together as a coalition – and to advocate for healthy, vibrant urban forests and livable communities. No coalition as broad as ours has taken up this issue in the past.

In this fiscal climate, we can't afford not to bring forward recommendations that will protect, strengthen and even expand opportunities to make communities healthier, and more livable. SUFC developed a platform addressing these goals which respect budget constraints – but still demonstrate how building capacity for urban forestry and green infrastructure initiatives can save money and deliver better outcomes for every dollar invested.

The recommendations fall into three broad categories to protect urban forest health: [1] address issues at the landscape level and promote urban trees and forests as green infrastructure; [2] interagency support and coordination; and [3] research, tools and information resources.

Please let us know how your organization will participate in this effort. In the meantime, more details on our recommendations and our action plan can be found at

<http://www.urbanforestcoalition.com/takeAction.aspx>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Winsett".

Don, Winsett, SUFC Chair