

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN FORESTS COALITION

## ENERGY CONSERVATION AND URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTS

Urban trees and forests are “green infrastructure” and essential elements of public health and quality of life. The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) supports the inclusion of tree planting initiatives in federal energy conservation and climate legislation that recognizes the contribution of urban trees and forests to reducing fossil fuel consumption through energy conservation, sequestering carbon and offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> production.

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF HR 1807 IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEGISLATION.

*Strategically planted trees not only sequester carbon, they reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and mitigate temperatures. Trees are part of the solution for climate change and energy conservation.*

## THE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SAVINGS ACT OR THE “TREES ACT” (H.R.1807)

*The Residential Energy and Economic Savings Act (TREES Act) authorizes a Department of Energy grant program to assist retail power providers with the establishment or continuation of residential tree planting programs. The purpose of the program is to help residents plant trees in strategic locations to help reduce energy demand, sequester carbon and reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion.*

- Retail power providers will partner with 501(c)(3) nonprofit tree-planting organizations. The nonprofit organizations will help plant trees in appropriate locations and monitor and report on survival and growth (among other things).
- If a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tree planting organization does not exist or operate in the service area, the retail power provider may work with the municipality or local conservation district.
- At least 30% of the grant funds will be to establish new tree planting programs and support programs that are less than three years old.
- Retail power providers shall rely on local technical advisory committees to approve species of trees to plant and adopt tree planting guidelines.
- The Department of Energy will cooperate with U.S. State Foresters and the Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program.
- Grants delivered through this program would be made through a competitive public process and would be subject to a 50% matching requirement.



The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition encompasses 30 national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda. Members work together to integrate trees and green infrastructure as a vital component of sustainable infrastructure for every community.

[www.urbanforestcoalition.org](http://www.urbanforestcoalition.org)