

RE: Urgent Request to Restore Funding for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Programs

Dear [Name of Representative or Senator]

As a community **[leader, tree board member, business owner, etc.]** in **[Community Name]**, Nebraska, I urgently request your support for restoring funding to the U.S. Forest Service's State, Private, and Tribal Forestry (SPTF) programs in the FY 2026 appropriations bill.

The elimination of these SPTF programs in the President's "Skinny Budget" would have severe consequences for our community. These programs protect lives, property, and our local economy through proactive forest management. Without these programs, small Nebraska communities like ours will bear impossible fire suppression and forest management costs—responsibilities we lack the resources to handle independently.

In partnership with the Nebraska Forest Service, our community has leveraged federal investments to protect and enhance our local environment. These investments have empowered us to:

[Insert a short example about how a program has impacted your community; i.e. wildfire risk reduction, prevention or preparedness; a community forestry initiative that has reduced stormwater runoff or enhanced livability; equipment or training for volunteer fire department; improved forest health management through education, etc.]

I thank you for past federal investments, and I respectfully urge you to demonstrate leadership by ensuring these vital programs remain funded in the FY 2026 budget. Your support will safeguard Nebraska communities and preserve our capacity to manage present and future environmental challenges.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Title] [Contact Information]