



February 14, 2020

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) stands ready to offer enthusiastic support for demonstrating American excellence in contributing to the World Economic Forum's Trillion Trees Initiative.

### PLEDGE FOR AMERICA'S FORESTS

- I. State Foresters will provide the professional expertise, infrastructure, and partnerships that are the foundation of active forest and wildland fire management.** At recent levels of support this includes:
- Employing 26,880 individuals, including 7,850 trained foresters and 12,280 wildland firefighters – essential national expertise and capacity for active management, reforestation, and forest protection;
  - Actively managing 75 million acres of state-owned forests and leveraging state resources to cooperatively manage federal lands through Good Neighbor Authority agreements;
  - Providing wildfire protection on 1.5 billion acres, including federal ownerships;
  - Providing active forest management advice and assistance to 270,000 private landowners annually, adding to the direct management of sixty-six percent (66%) – over 520 million acres – of America's forestland held in state or private ownership;
  - Operating 29 tree seedling nurseries and 30 tree seed orchards – core infrastructure for reforestation;
  - Producing an average of 170 million tree seedlings per year for the reforestation of native forest ecosystems;
  - Assisting more than 8,000 local governments annually to establish and manage community forests;
  - Providing on-the-ground delivery of a wide variety of federal, state, and private programs and partnerships that support afforestation/reforestation, active forest

**Executive Director**  
Jay Farrell

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- management, forest markets, and 2.4 million forest sector jobs – state forestry agencies provide significant leverage in directly delivering multiple programs;
- Executing state-defined Forest Action Plans to achieve national results.

**II. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) will develop and implement communications, legislative/policy, and partnership efforts that enhance the sustainable management of America’s trees and forests.**

Actions include:

- Deploying its communications assets and expertise to amplify messages that promote active forest management, afforestation/reforestation, forest markets, and forest health/wildland fire protection across all landscapes, rural to urban;
- Working with members of congress and policymakers to establish a workable bi-partisan legislative framework that supports U.S. objectives related to the Trillion Trees Initiative;
- Supporting USDA Secretary Perdue’s vision for Shared Stewardship that achieves national results through strong state partnerships and shared priorities/decision-making;
- Serving as a non-partisan, credible, and professional source of expertise to inform and promote actions consistent with NASF’s mission and Trillion Trees objectives;
- Coordinating with and convening partners to build broad support for workable forest resource management, forest markets, wildland fire, forest science and health, and urban and community forestry policies;
- Promoting state-defined solutions to achieve national results.

Thank you for your leadership in recognizing the value and future potential of trees and forests, America’s greatest renewable natural resource!

We look forward to working with you and contributing any way we can.

Sincerely,

Greg Josten  
South Dakota State Forester  
President, NASF

Jay Farrell  
Executive Director