

**From:** "dlambe@arborday.org%inter2" <dlambe@arborday.org>  
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Email: dlambe@arborday.org

FirstName: Dan

LastName: Lambe

Address1: 211 N. 12th St.

Address2:

City: Lincoln

State: Nebraska

zipcode: 68508

Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: On behalf of The National Arbor Day Foundation, we wanted to once again thank Congress for their essential support of the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program. Communities large and small, throughout the nation, have committed themselves to improving the beauty and environment of their cities and towns and your leadership in supporting community forestry has helped these cities reach their goals.

One important example of how your support of Urban and Community Forestry has had a direct impact on citizens across the nation is the popular and effective Tree City USA program. Tree City USA has proven to be a cost-effective way for state and federal governments to support the work of local communities, enhance the quality of life of their citizens and have a meaningful impact on conservation efforts with clear and measurable success in cities and towns across the country.

Tree City USA is sponsored nationwide by The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with individual state foresters and with essential support of the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program. For 30 years the Tree City USA program has served as a model for how to facilitate and foster the spirit of partnership and cooperation in the urban forestry community. It has also been a demonstration in how to effectively and efficiently engage public and private partners including municipal leaders, state and federal governments, tree care professionals, utilities, developers and nonprofit organizations.

The Tree City USA program currently recognizes over 3,100 Tree City USA communities in all 50 states. A direct result of the strategic investment by the USDA Forest Service in the Tree City USA program is the allocation of more than \$765 million annually by municipalities to their urban and community forestry programs. The funds spent by these Tree City USA communities help create more pleasant places in which we live, work, worship and play. Congressional funding for the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program is what makes the whole national system work and ultimately helps good things happen in the towns and cities in your state and all across America.

The important support of the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program provides essential support to the quality of the air and water in cities across the nation. Urban and Community Forestry programs improve energy conservation, increase property values and ensure an improved quality of life for citizens in our largest metropolitan areas and our smallest rural towns.

Thank you for Congress's vital role in funding the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program.

Question5:

Question6: