

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve urban and community forestry.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1462

To improve forest management activities on National Forest System land, public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and Tribal land to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested land, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN to
the amendment (No. _____) proposed by

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place in subtitle B of title I, insert
2 the following:

3 **SEC. _____. URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of the Cooperative For-
5 estry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),

9 (5), and (6) as subparagraphs (A), (D), (E),

1 and (F), respectively, and indenting appro-
2 priately;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
5 graph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking
6 “residents” and inserting “residents be-
7 cause—”;

8 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
9 (A) (as so redesignated) the following:

10 “(B) the maintenance and management of
11 an urban forest offers additional opportunities
12 relating to workforce development and job cre-
13 ation;

14 “(C) the presence of a healthy and well-
15 maintained urban forest can support
16 stormwater management;”;

17 (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so reded-
18 ignated)—

19 (I) by inserting “improving air
20 quality,” after “heat island effect,”;
21 and

22 (II) by adding “and” after the
23 semicolon at the end; and

24 (iv) in subparagraph (F) (as so reded-
25 ignated), by striking “; and” and inserting

1 “, including by improving the physical and
2 mental health of community residents;”;

3 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “commu-
4 nities.” and inserting “communities;”;

5 (D) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
6 paragraph (3); and

7 (E) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) according to research by the Forest Serv-
9 ice, the estimated value of benefits described in
10 paragraph (2) exceeds \$18,000,000,000;

11 “(5) urban forest canopy cover is inequitably
12 distributed among racial groups and income levels,
13 exacerbating disparities in exposure, for example, to
14 the urban heat island effect, and increasing related
15 health risks and financial burdens relating to cool-
16 ing;

17 “(6) the effects of historical discriminatory poli-
18 cies, such as redlining, continue to have effects on
19 urban environments;

20 “(7) a recent analysis shows that—

21 “(A) urbanized neighborhoods with mostly
22 people of color have 33 percent less tree canopy
23 on average than majority white neighborhoods;
24 and

1 “(B) low-income neighborhoods have 41
2 percent less tree cover than neighborhoods with
3 low rates of poverty;

4 “(8) additional analyses of cities in the United
5 States found that—

6 “(A) communities primarily inhabited by
7 United States-born, White populations contain
8 more than twice the urban forest canopy cover
9 of communities primarily inhabited by racial
10 and ethnic minorities; and

11 “(B) there were elevated land tempera-
12 tures in formerly redlined areas compared to
13 their nonredlined counterparts, by an average
14 2.6 degrees Celsius and up to 7 degrees Celsius;
15 and

16 “(9) to reduce disparities in the enjoyment of
17 the social, environmental, and economic benefits of
18 healthy and well-maintained urban forests and to
19 manage risks relating to heat exposure and other
20 urban stressors, the Federal Government should ac-
21 celerate actions to enhance the health and resilience
22 of urban forests, with investment in priority commu-
23 nities.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “The
2 Secretary” and inserting the following:

3 “(1) ASSISTANCE FOR STATES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

5 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
7 ignated), in the second sentence, by strik-
8 ing “In providing such assistance” and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(B) COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC.—

11 In providing assistance under subparagraph
12 (A)”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-
14 ignated), by striking “organizations. The
15 Secretary” and inserting the following:
16 “organizations and institutions of higher
17 education.

18 “(C) DIRECT COOPERATION WITH LOCAL
19 GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(2) OFFICE OF URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOR-
22 ESTRY.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
24 establish in the Forest Service an Office of
25 Urban and Community Forestry.

1 “(B) DIRECTOR.—The Chief of the Forest
2 Service shall appoint a senior official to serve as
3 the Director of the Office of Urban and Com-
4 munity Forestry, which shall not be required to
5 be a Senior Executive Service position (as de-
6 fined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United
7 States Code).

8 “(C) MISSION.—The mission of the Office
9 of Urban and Community Forestry shall be to
10 promote the purposes described in subsection
11 (b), including administering the programs and
12 requirements described in this section.

13 “(D) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office
14 of Urban and Community Forestry shall be re-
15 sponsible for carrying out the mission described
16 in subparagraph (C), including by—

17 “(i) managing urban and community
18 forest programs, including programs for
19 State and local tree planting and mainte-
20 nance;

21 “(ii) engaging in stakeholder relations
22 and developing external partnerships in
23 support of urban and community forest
24 programs;

1 “(iii) identifying common State and
2 municipal best practices for navigating
3 local policies for urban and community for-
4 estry;

5 “(iv) coordinating the nationwide net-
6 works of urban and community forest pro-
7 grams;

8 “(v) providing strategic guidance for
9 workforce development for urban and com-
10 munity forest programs and longevity of
11 urban forests;

12 “(vi) administering awards provided
13 under this section;

14 “(vii) advising the Chief of the Forest
15 Service on urban and community forestry;
16 and

17 “(viii) coordinating with agencies and
18 officials of the Department of Agriculture
19 and the Forest Service to administer or
20 update urban and community forest pro-
21 grams.”;

22 (3) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
24 in the first sentence, by striking “organiza-

tions,” and inserting “organizations and institutions of higher education,”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1)—

4 (i) by striking “and determining” and
5 inserting “determining”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and measuring and monitoring the atmospheric impacts of urban and community forests” before the semicolon at the end;

10 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (E) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) in connection with the Forest and Inventory Analysis program, analyze data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of urban and community forests.”;

20 (4) in subsection (g)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
23 by striking “15” and inserting “16”;

1 (ii) in each of clauses (i) through
2 (viii), by striking the comma at the end
3 and inserting a period;

4 (iii) in clause (ix), by striking “, and”
5 at the end and inserting a period; and

6 (iv) by striking clause (x) and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(x) 3 members who are not officers
9 or employees of any governmental body
10 and who have expertise and have been ac-
11 tive in urban and community forestry, of
12 whom—

13 “(I) 1 is a resident of a commu-
14 nity with a population of less than
15 50,000 as of the most recent census;
16 and

17 “(II) 1 is a resident of an under-
18 served community, as determined by
19 the Secretary, with a population of
20 greater than 50,000 as of the most re-
21 cent census.”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(7) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not
24 less frequently than annually.”;

25 (5) by striking subsection (i);

1 (6) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (j);

3 (7) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(h) MICROFOREST FUNDING.—

6 “(1) AMOUNTS AWARDED.—Of the amount
7 made available under subsection (k) for each fiscal
8 year, not less than \$150,000, but not more than 1
9 percent, shall be awarded for projects that establish
10 microforests and used for other expenses necessary
11 to support those microforests, as determined by the
12 Secretary.

13 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting projects
14 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pref-
15 erence to eligible parcels that—

16 “(A) are underutilized, degraded,
17 deindustrialized, barren, or fractional;

18 “(B) are located in an area where flora is
19 lacking;

20 “(C) provide ecological benefits, including
21 storm water management, heat reduction, and
22 wildlife habitat; and

23 “(D) provide a geographic, economic, de-
24 mographic, and ecological variety.

25 “(i) WAIVER OF COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any non-Federal cost-share
2 requirement otherwise applicable to projects carried
3 out under this section may be waived at the discre-
4 tion of the Secretary.

5 “(2) PRIORITY.—In providing waivers under
6 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a
7 project carried out by a nonprofit organization or an
8 Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
9 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
10 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) that benefits an underserved com-
11 munity.”; and

12 (8) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(k) FUNDING.—

14 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
15 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
16 wise appropriated, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2026 to carry out this section, to remain available
18 until expended.

19 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
20 addition to the amounts appropriated by paragraph
21 (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry
22 out this section \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2026 through 2030.”.

24 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Nothing in the
25 amendments made by subsection (a) affects the avail-

1 ability of funds made available for the program under sec-
2 tion 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of
3 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(c)) before the date of enactment
4 of this Act.

5 (c) DEFINITION OF MICROFOREST.—Section 13(d) of
6 the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16
7 U.S.C. 2109(d)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and
9 (3) as paragraphs (3), (1), and (4), respectively; and
10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so re-
11 designated) the following:

12 “(2) MICROFOREST.—The term ‘microforest’
13 means a dense planting of a variety of native trees
14 and related shrubs and vegetative ground covering
15 that—

16 “(A) is no greater than 1 acre;

17 “(B) is suitable for local conditions; and

18 “(C) provides ecological benefits.”.