

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To set aside funding under the Urban and Community Forestry program for projects that establish micro-forests.

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 end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

2 **SEC. 120A. URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY.**

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

6 (1) by striking subsection (i);

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
8 section (j);

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(h) MICROFOREST FUNDING.—

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

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

14 “(A) are underutilized, degraded,
15 deindustrialized, barren, or fractional;

16 “(B) are located in an area where flora is
17 lacking;

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

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

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

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any non-Federal cost-share
25 requirement otherwise applicable to projects carried

1 out under this section may be waived at the discre-
2 tion of the Secretary.

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

10 (4) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(k) FUNDING.—

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

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

22 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Nothing in the
23 amendments made by subsection (a) affects the avail-
24 ability of funds made available for the program under sec-
25 tion 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of

1 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(c)) before the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

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

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

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

14 “(A) is no greater than 1 acre;

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

16 “(C) provides ecological benefits.”.