

Dear

I am writing you today to share my profound concern over the alarming rate of forest devastation and lack of green spaces in my community.

Forests and green spaces are vital. They provide water, food, and livelihoods for billions of people around the world. They contain important and beautiful diversity of life. They create the oxygen we breathe, counteract pollution and regulate our climate. Tragically, our forests and green spaces are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Deforestation is wiping out countless species, and lack of green spaces and/or food deserts are increasing inequality, threatening the survival of indigenous communities, and all life on Earth. But what if forest protection, replanting, and restoration are the solution?

Global reforestation binds at least a quarter of the annual man-made CO₂ emissions. Preventing the continued loss and degradation of forests and supporting sustainable and appropriate restoration could contribute to one-third of total climate change mitigation required by 2030. Restoring just 350 million hectares of forest could potentially sequester (offset) 1.7 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually (IUCN). This is a big deal, and there's space to grow – According to the 1 Trillion Trees campaign of UN Environment Programme (IUCN), an area the size of the United States could be reforested!

Our pattern of forest and green space destruction cannot continue. I ask that you prioritize forest protection, green spaces and sustainable city planning, and help progress policies that support the following:

- * Within your region, prioritize support to community-based initiatives that work with local communities developing land-use plans and forest reserves, as well as sustainable livelihoods, to protect forests and green spaces.
- * Affirm the right of all people to a healthy and safe environment and safeguard natural areas by ensuring that we fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- * The Endangered Species Act is responsible for protecting forests in the name of animals. Please commit to ensuring protections so the ESA isn't weakened.
- * Lend your support to effective new bills whose aim is to protect and restore our nation's green spaces.

I understand that protecting forests and green spaces is just one of many issues you are working to address. I believe we each have a responsibility to make compassionate decisions every single day that reduce harm and protect life. Protecting forests and green spaces is a core initiative to accomplish that goal, and I hope you will join me in building a better world.

Sincerely,