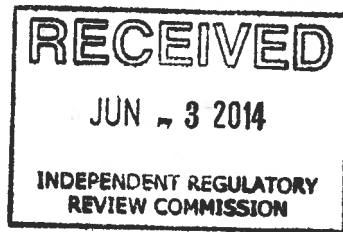


3052



683 Barnstable Road
Carlisle, PA 17015
May 21, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

I share the growing concern over particulate matter in the air and what it does to our lungs, our children, and future generations. Many steps have been suggested to improve this critical situation; clean up harmful emissions from smokestacks and tailpipes, reduce emissions of wood smoke, improve air quality monitoring, adopt an ozone standard, and protect and strengthen the Clean Air Act. One proactive step that is almost always overlooked—plant trees.

A 50-year oak forest sequesters (absorbs) 30,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per acre, according to Cornell University scientists. At the same time, it emits 22,000 pounds of oxygen. Both conifers and deciduous trees provide this function, at different rates depending on the age and species. The EPA has calculated that a single acre of woods absorbs the emissions of 2.7 cars or for 40 acres, 109 cars.

In the campaign to reduce air pollution, which the International Agency for Research on Cancer has declared the most important carcinogen, efforts should be mobilized to encourage and support the planting of trees. Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources used to receive federal flow-through dollars to support tree planting on private property but these funds are now administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, with a larger staff and far less timeliness.

I have planted 3,000 hardwoods and 1,600 spruces on my 55-acre property near Carlisle, receiving one DCNR grant of \$2,100--based on receipts. I am waiting nine months for NRCS approval for writing a management plan (compared to a week with DCNR), which you need before applying for matching tree planting funds. Remember, we plant trees in the spring, so I am already two years behind. Can't Pennsylvania move to the forefront of supporting tree planting on private lands once more? Can't polluting industries be required to support tree planting?

Trees are a natural resource--supporting clean water, air, wildlife, open spaces--things people take for granted until they are gone. As our air quality continues to worsen, efforts to encourage tree planting should coincide with efforts to reduce pollution at its source.

Sincerely,

s/n

• David T. Twining, Ph.D.

Member:

American Tree Farm System
Pennsylvania Forest Stewards
Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Forestry for the Bay
Walnut Council