

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

June 23, 2023

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Suite 520-A
Washington, DC 20250-0121

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the City of Utica to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry grants program.

With funding, the City of Utica, with community partners; CNY Conservancy, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Utica City School District, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica Rotary, The Center, Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, the local Cornell Cooperative Extension and others, will launch a transformative urban forest renewal project in 17 severely disadvantaged census tracts within the city. This project will assess current conditions, develop remediation and renewal plans, plant 10,000 trees, repurpose removed trees, and engage over 23,000 community members.

I applaud the City of Utica for its foresight and sincerely hope the application is met with your approval. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my grants coordinator at (202) 224-6542. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator