Letter to Legislator from Forester

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations on your recent election/reelection! I appreciate your commitment to public service.

I’m writing to introduce myself as a professional forester who lives and works in your district. Not everyone knows what a forester is, so I’ll explain briefly. Foresters are trained in the science of forest ecology, a branch of biology, to understand how forests grow, develop, and change over time. We are also knowledgeable about the many benefits that trees and forests provide, and how to sustain them over time for the benefit of society and nature. Foresters and other forest practitioners are certified by the State and have continuing education requirements set by the Forest Practices Act.

Foresters work with people and with natural processes to make sure that our forests are healthy and continue to be a valuable part of our way of life here in our mostly-forested state. Our work ensures that forests can continue to provide clean water and air, contribute to a natural climate solution, provide forest products such as firewood, lumber, and maple syrup (all of these and more are produced in our state), and support forest-dependent animals, plants, birds, and other species.

In my job (describe)… In my work I must always be aware of how forests are sustained, managed, and kept healthy.

“I am also an active member of the Yankee Division of the Society of Foresters (SAF). The mission of SAF is “to advance sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology, promoting professional excellence while ensuring the continued health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity.” We do this through many efforts including partnerships with other groups such as Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), local land trusts, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

In your role as a legislator forestry issues will arise from time to time. For example, in recent years the legislature has addressed balancing the need for “core forests” with the goal of expanding renewable energy, has established educational qualifications for municipal tree wardens, and made it easier for DEEP Forestry to administer its Forest Practices Act requirements.

I’d like to offer myself as a resource to you and your staff on forestry issues. Please call on me anytime a forestry or tree issue arises in your work.

When time allows I’d like to meet with you here in the district or in your office in Hartford. In a short meeting we can discuss further some of the benefits of forest management, some of the challenges that our forests face in an ever-changing world, and any topics that you have an interest in.

Regards,