

DRAFT

Dear Seattle City Council:

In April 2007, the City of Seattle's Urban Forest Management Plan was created by the City of Seattle's Urban Forest Coalition, a group representing nine City departments with tree management or regulatory responsibility. This visionary plan recommends tangible measures to preserve and expand Seattle's urban forest, which has experienced significant decline over the past several decades. The Coalition's objective in this plan was to ensure that Seattle would be worthy of its name as *Emerald City* and "a city among the trees."

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission was created to carry out the goals in this Plan, especially its overarching goal to increase city tree canopy from 20 to 30% over the next 30 years. In order for the Commission to effectively answer this charge and succeed with important initiatives including tree permits, planting programs and incentives, we respectfully ask for the full support of the City Council by formally adopting the Urban Forest Management Plan.

It is the opinion of the Commission that only through a strongly aligned City Council, Mayor's office and Interdepartmental Team can we hope to achieve the ambitious goals of the Urban Forest Management Plan. We strongly encourage the City Council to adopt the Plan. If it is in the Council's opinion that a substantive change needs to be made to the plan prior to adoption, please articulate this need to the Urban Forestry Commission as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

The Commission