

Landowner name
Address
City, State, ZIP

Date

Senator/Representative _____
Address
City, State, ZIP

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

As a landowner and a resident of your district, I am writing to express my concern over the General Fund appropriation for the Alabama Forestry Commission for fiscal year 2012. Over the past few years, the Forestry Commission has been hit harder than virtually any other state agency by declining revenues. During fiscal year 2010, the Commission reduced its work force by more than 70 employees, which represents more than 20 percent of the number of people who were employed by the Commission on October 1, 2009.

The Forestry Commission provides vital services to me and landowners throughout the state. The Commission is the only state agency required by law to prevent and suppress wildfires. In addition, the Commission provides support for the state's volunteer fire departments; free forest management advice for landowners; administration of federal landowner assistance programs; identification of insects, diseases, and other threats; assistance with timber theft issues; and countless other services which must continue if we are to preserve the forest resource which provides the raw material for Alabama's second largest manufacturing industry.

I am specifically asking that the Forestry Commission receive a General Fund appropriation of at least the same amount that was appropriated to the agency for fiscal year 2011. This amount will allow the Forestry Commission to continue operating at the current level, and possibly avoid additional layoffs.

Thank you for considering this request. I hope I can count on your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,