[Sender’s Name

Address

City, State, Zip]

[Date]

[Recipient’s Name

Address

City, State, Zip]

Dear [Community Leader]:

I am writing to express my concern over the potential removal of a [tree species] due to [reason of removal, name of construction project or urban expansion]. As a resident of [name of community], I am distressed that our community may lose this valuable environmental and economic asset.

This [tree species] offers several benefits to [name of community]. From cooling the neighborhood and to filtering air pollutants and offsetting carbon emissions, this tree plays a critical role in sustaining a healthy environment. In addition to the ecological services this tree provides, it also has a significant economic value. A single front-yard tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding. Properties with trees usually have a higher monetary value — up to 20 percent higher — than properties without trees, and trees also cut down on energy costs. Business districts see an increase in goods and services sold in well-landscaped areas. For every dollar invested in caring for a tree, you receive more than twice the dollar amount in benefits.

The citizens of [name of community] understand the positive long-term impacts of trees. Because trees appreciate in value as they get older, the natural benefits they provide over the course of their lifetimes are incredibly important and only increase as each tree matures. Birds and small mammals rely on trees to provide suitable habitats, and mature trees enhance the overall beauty of our community. Trees are vital to our urban forests and play a major role in the green infrastructure that makes up a city’s ecosystem.

I strongly urge you to reconsider removing this [tree species]. Let’s work together to find an alternative solution to save this beautiful specimen. With the expansion of urban redevelopment projects and lack of awareness of the importance of our trees and forests, it has become all too easy to cut down street trees without assessing their ecological, social and economic values. The value of this tree and all trees should be taken into consideration when making decisions for this [project or reason for removal] because they are true champions of the environment.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]