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First name: Cheryl

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Secretary Thomas Vilsack:

I served on the Carmel (IN) Street Tree Committee now known as the Carmel Urban Forestry Committee for 20 years. We were aware of the dangers from years of reduction of forests (no more than a 1/4th of the original woodlands) coupled with the lack of a plan to restore the original Eastern Woodlands (swamp in Indiana) made for friction particularly from private landowners. That's why it's so disappointing when public trees (county, state and federal) are used as a funding source instead of the resource that they are. Indiana has been logged so heavily that there are fragmented wildlife corridors. In addition, when the state began quadrupling the amount of logging, they began logging on slopes which caused for habitat destruction, erosion and waterway silting. The logging equipment wasn't cleaned and brought in MORE invasive species which was supposed to be the justification for increasing logging. I am a current member of the Indiana Forest Alliance. I support their request to increase monitoring of the restoration and maintenance of old growth forests.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gettelfinger

Carmel, IN