



## Branches of Government

### Legislative Summary

- ◆ Assembly Bill 967, relating to the maintenance and removal of vegetation obstructing the view of outdoor advertising signs along highways under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, passed both the assembly and the senate and was approved by the governor on May 25, 2006. As written, the DOT has authority to deny permit requests if it becomes law. Input on administrative rules is important in order to influence how the DOT will implement the law. There is concern that the bill allows cutting of trees, but does not meet arboricultural standards.
- ◆ The International Society of Arboriculture, Secretariat for the American National Standards Institute's Accredited Standards Committee (Z133), announced that the 2006 revision of the national safety standard for arboricultural operations has been approved by the committee and is expected to be available for purchase by late summer. The *ISA Arborist News* is featuring a three-part series on the new standard. The first part was in the June issue and covered personal protective equipment and electrical safety.

### We Need Your Help

Both the Senate and the House have each passed their own budget bills determining funding for the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry

Program. The House and Senate versions of the U&CF budget have some key differences – the House version will result in a \$1.5 million net increase in program support for the core program delivered to all 50 states, while the Senate version would result in a budget decrease in U&CF support delivered to the states.

**Please send a message to our Wisconsin representatives and senators whose e-mail and phone numbers can be found at: <http://www.house.gov/> and <http://www.senate.gov/>. Please note that Senator Kohl and Representative Obey are on their respective Appropriations committees and will have the greatest influence on this process.**

### Message to Convey

As the House and Senate confer in coming weeks over the Appropriations for Interior and Related Agencies, please support a budget of \$30.25 million for the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The U&CF Program provides assistance to protect and manage urban forests in communities nationwide, serving more than 80% of the Wisconsin population and leveraging \$7 for every \$1 of federal support. This effective cooperative program promotes quality of life in both small towns and large metropolitan areas. We encourage the Senate and House leadership to pass a budget of \$30.25 million for the Urban and Community Forestry program in FY 2007.