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| **From:** | Farrell, Robert |
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Hello everyone,

What a beautiful weekend to be in Virginia. I'm not sure what happened to winter but it's hard to argue with weather like that in February. Lots of good stuff going on last week around DOF. Thanks to Jason Braunstein for hosting the SGSF GIS committee winter meeting here in Charlottesville. And thanks to Lara Johnson and Molly O'Liddy for organizing and participating in the Urban Forest Strike Team exercise in Winchester focused on Spotted Lanternfly.

I got to go to DC on Wednesday to meet with Senate and Congressional staffers to advocate for funding for forestry at the national level. I also got to present to the Sportsmen's Caucus at the General Assembly on Thursday morning to brief them on the status of the hardwood resource and our hardwood initiative.

The House and Senate unveiled their budget proposals on Sunday and there are significant differences that they will need to work out between now and March 7th. The good news is that both chambers include state employee raises and or bonuses in their plans so we should be seeing something extra in the next two years.

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