



Office of the President

Thank you

February 6, 2024

Member of Assembly, Patricia Fahy
198 State Street
Legislative Office Building
Suite 717
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Assembly Member Fahy:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week to discuss ESF's unique and vital role in helping New York State accomplish its necessary and ambitious climate goals. We are at a critical juncture in the future of our college, and we appreciate your continued support of our students, faculty, and staff.

As we discussed, the College plays a pivotal role in developing New York State's core environmental workforce, having more than six hundred alumni working at the Department of Environmental Conservation alone. We are a research partner to the DEC, OPRHP, NYSEDA and the Department of Agriculture and Markets. We have a focused and driven student body, exclusively focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, with a 13:1 student to faculty ratio, and we manage more than 25,000 acres of pristine and sustainably managed forest properties in Onondaga County and in the Adirondack Park.

Our mission is unique. And as such, we respectfully request that you include the restoration of ESF's historic Mission Adjustment, with an annual appropriation of \$10 million, in your Assembly one-house budget. We recognize the importance of keeping SUNY affordable to all New Yorkers; we also bear unique and challenging financial constraints due to our focused mission, our campus location and size, and our considerable forest assets.

Given New York State's laudable and ambitious climate goals, this is a critical time to invest in the fiscal health of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This \$10 million appropriation will help to ensure that we attract and retain the best research scholars in the nation, and that we are able to build New York's vital climate focused workforce.

Thank you for all you do to support the College, I appreciate your leadership as Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and your tireless advocacy on behalf of SUNY.

Sincerely,

Joanne M. Mahoney
President

It was nice to see you. Thank you for
taking time to meet with us.
Joanne