



144 Church Street NW
Suite 201
Vienna, Virginia
22180

703.319.8380
703.319.8290 fax
www.clarb.org

March 14, 2005

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
626 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), I would like to voice our support for the nomination of Wangari Muta Maathai for the ASLA Olmsted Medal. Her current position as the Assistant Secretary of the Environment, Wildlife and Natural Resources for Kenya and her life-long accomplishments for her country's environment make her an outstanding candidate for this honor.

Through the organization of the Green Belt Movement, Professor Maathai has focused efforts on improving the lives of the people in her country by repairing their environment. More than 20 million trees have been planted since 1976, and the work has been carried out mainly by women. Because of this, the program has positively affected the family dynamic and the productivity of small villages of Kenya as well as the environment. The Green Belt Movement is serving throughout the world as a model of grassroots efforts to improve living conditions through environmental conservation.

Wangari Maathai's designation as the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate has brought public attention to her work in the past year. Bestowing the Olmsted Medal on an international figure of her importance would show our appreciation for the environmental stewardship of the world beyond the borders of the United States. CLARB feels that this candidate embodies the environmental leadership, vision and stewardship that the Olmsted Medal was created to recognize.

We encourage your support for the nomination of Wangari Maathai for the Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra J. Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sandra J. Gonzalez

President, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards

SJG/eai

cc: Susan L. B. Jacobson