



March 18, 2005

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the nomination of Wangari Muta Maathai for the 2005 ASLA Olmsted Medal.

Professor Maathai's lifelong dedication to empowering local communities in the developing countries of Africa has resulted in significant improvements in the living conditions of poor people in these countries and is truly inspirational. She has done this through community-based tree planting programs that have had far reaching effects. She has demonstrated tremendous vision by understanding that the simple act of planting trees can empower whole communities of people to have hope and empower them to improve the quality of their lives and their environment. Through her dedicated efforts there has been a substantial reduction in erosion of top soil; an improved the quality of life for women and children; and an increased environmental consciousness, volunteerism, sense of community and self-empowerment in Kenya.

I believe Wangari Maathai epitomizes the values of Frederick Law Olmsted for whom this award is named. I urge the Board to recognize her heroic efforts and award her the 2005 ASLA Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

President
American Society of Landscape Architects

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