In my role as interim executive vice-president, I know firsthand how much SAF members and nonmembers alike look to the Society’s executive vice-president to speak for forestry. And I also know that the challenge is not only to lead the profession but also to follow it. The true voice of forestry can only be heard by listening to foresters. Whenever I have been asked to speak for the profession, I have found my voice by listening to you, the members of SAF, and understanding the science, values, and experience you bring to forestry and to your professional society.

As a member, you know that SAF provides a valuable forum in which foresters can listen to the everyday challenges and obstacles faced by other foresters throughout the United States. SAF also presents you with the chance to do something about those challenges. From the field seminar series to our award-winning publications, from accreditation of forestry programs in higher education to the Certified Forester program and numerous other programs and services, SAF gives you the tools you need to learn from the best the profession has to offer.

In addition to listening and providing needed tools, we amplify your voice by talking—to the US Congress, the executive branch, statehouses across the country, federal agencies, and the media. SAF leaders have been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and hundreds of other newspapers all across the nation. We have appeared on ABC News, Fox News, CNBC, and National Public Radio. We hear from you, they hear from us.

Whether you are in the field, behind a desk, in a classroom, or in a corporate boardroom, SAF is with you. Of course, you know that, but please tell your colleagues who are not SAF members that we’d like to amplify their voices, too. We just need to hear from them.

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