



September 10, 2026

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
324 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Austin Bonnama
Vermeer Mountain West
Salt Lake City, Utah

VICE CHAIR

Amy Burkett
Burkett Arbor Care, LLC
Boerne, Texas

SENIOR DIRECTOR

Jennifer McPhee
Harrison McPhee, Inc.
Mills, Massachusetts

DIRECTORS

Arthur Balson, III
Lucas Tree Experts
Portland, Maine

Ron S. Gumz
Wachtel Tree Science Inc.
Merton, Wisconsin

Randolph Hoover
Xylem Kendall
Norfolk, Virginia

Eric Petersen
ArboRisk Insurance
New Berlin, Wisconsin

John Smithmyer
Bartlett Tree Experts
Finksburg, Maryland

Mike Tilford
SavATree
Bedford Hills, New York

Megan Townsend
Altitude Arborist, LLC
Broomfield, Colorado

PAST CHAIR

Noel Boyer, CTSP
All About Trees, LLC
Springfield, Missouri

PRESIDENT & CEO

David White, CAE
Tree Care Industry Association
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Senator Hassan,

On behalf of the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), thank you for taking the time to visit ArborTech on September 2 and meet with tree care professionals from across New Hampshire. Your visit provided a valuable opportunity for our members to provide a firsthand look at the work they perform and the safety challenges they face every day.

Our members were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the importance of the pending OSHA Tree Care Operations Standard and TCIA's longstanding effort to establish clear, industry-specific safety requirements. The crane access demonstration provided a firsthand look at one area where greater regulatory clarity is needed, including the practice of safely elevating and securing an arborist into a tree. A dedicated standard would help ensure that federal safety requirements recognize the unique nature of tree care operations and better protect workers performing this inherently hazardous work.

Workforce development remains another critical issue for our industry. Given your longstanding commitment to workforce issues, we look forward to sharing additional information and recommendations with your office in the months ahead and continuing the conversation about strengthening career pathways for the next generation of skilled tree care professionals.

We recognize the many demands on your time and sincerely appreciate your decision to spend part of your day with our members. Visits like yours remind our members that their voices matter and that good public policy begins with meaningful conversations between elected officials and the people they serve. TCIA looks forward to staying in touch with you and your staff and serving as a resource as OSHA moves forward with the Tree Care Operations Standard.

Sincerely,

David White, CAE
President & CEO, TCIA

