**SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT OR EMAIL:**

Hello, my name is [Your Name]. I live in [Your City] and am a concerned constituent of Senator [Senator’s Name]. I’m reaching out to respectfully ask the Senator to consider the critical importance of exempting urban trees from Assembly Bill 1573.

While the intentions behind the bill might seem commendable, I believe it’s crucial to address some potential unintended consequences that could impact our urban environments. The bill proposes a requirement for the use of 25% native plants in nonresidential projects in place of nonfunctional turf. While I appreciate the efforts made by Assemblymember Friedman and the bill’s sponsor to engage with industry stakeholders, I’d like to draw attention to the unique nature of our urban landscapes.

Our urban areas differ significantly from natural environments, presenting complex challenges that require a more nuanced approach. Mandating the use of native trees across a wide range of urban and commercial settings could inadvertently hinder the overall health and resilience of our urban forests. Urban trees provide essential benefits such as shade, improved air quality, and combatting the urban heat island effect. [Or your own personal reasons for exempting urban trees.]

The assumption that a one-size-fits-all approach for native species will work uniformly across all urban areas is not supported by scientific research, as evidenced by studies such as the “[**California Urban Forest Inventory**](https://lookerstudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/880d448d-de26-48d3-b563-0c6317e456e4/page/jWHKB)” from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

I share the concern for pollinators and native species, but we must also consider the unique ecosystems within our urban environments. Exempting urban trees from this bill will allow for a more tailored and balanced approach to achieving water conservation, biodiversity protection, and urban greening. Furthermore, the bill’s expansion of market demand for native plants could inadvertently limit the diversity of tree species in our urban forests, potentially compromising their overall resilience in the face of changing climate conditions, and risk from pests.

In light of these considerations, I strongly urge Senator [Senator’s Name] to support the exemption of urban trees from AB 1573. This exemption will ensure that we can continue to safeguard our urban forests while pursuing sustainable and effective solutions for our environment. I kindly request the Senator’s careful consideration of these points and a vote in favor of exempting urban trees from Assembly Bill 1573.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your City, State]
[Your Contact Information]