

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations, whose networks collectively represent tens of thousands of charities and foundations, urge Congress to act immediately on a permanent extension of the charitable giving incentives included in the expired tax extenders package.

Earlier this year, the House voted by a two-thirds majority to help the work of charities by restoring and making permanent three giving incentives: 1) the provision encouraging seniors to make contributions to charitable organizations through their individual retirement accounts; 2) the enhanced deduction for property donated for conservation purposes; and 3) the enhanced deduction for donations of excess food inventory. The House bill, the America Gives More Act, also included language to encourage private foundations to give more in times of crisis through simplifying the excise tax on their investment income. The Senate Finance Committee passed a measure to restore the first three provisions through 2016, but the full Senate has not yet considered the legislation.

As you know, after multiple attempts last year to make these giving incentives permanent, in December Congress resorted to a one-year extension as part of a broader package of lapsed tax provisions. As a result, the IRA charitable rollover and enhanced deductions for the donation of food inventory and land conservation easements were reinstated for just two weeks, before expiring again for the fifth time in recent years on January 1, 2015.

These donations have helped facilitate the protection of over one million acres of our country's precious natural resources, provided food banks across the country access to the 70 billion pounds of nutritious food wasted each year, and encouraged American seniors to donate hundreds of millions of dollars from their retirement savings to the charities closest to their hearts, including places of worship, cultural institutions, and those helping the down-and-out get back on their feet.

For each day that goes by without an incentive in place and assured, many of the donations the incentives were intended to promote will simply not take place. The repeated expiration and retroactive renewal of these charitable giving incentives create tremendous uncertainty for individuals, families, and businesses who want to provide donations to help their communities, and for the charitable organizations working to meet the needs of their communities.

The time to reinstate and make permanent these provisions is now. The sector and all those we serve cannot wait. Strong bipartisan support will underscore our nation's long-standing commitment to strengthening charities to do the important work of lifting up lives and improving communities. We are counting on your support.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Stewardship Association
Alachua Conservation Trust
Aloha United Way
American Alliance of Museums
American Institute for Economic Research, Inc.
American Red Cross

American Writers Museum
Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Ardea Arts, Inc.
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of California Symphony Orchestras
Association of Fundraising Professionals

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum
Avinity Senior Living
Baltimore Woodwind Repair
Barber & Kinney, LLC
Bayou Land Conservancy
Beatty Museum
Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Bedford Historical Society
Bitter Root Land Trust
Black Swamp Conservancy
Blowing Rock Art and History Museum
Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
BoardSource
Boston Baroque
Brenda Moore and Associates LLC
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy
Catholic Charities USA
Cedarmere Foundation
Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras
Central Savannah River Land Trust
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Human Rhythm Project
Chilkat Valley Historical Society
Cincinnati Opera
Civic Orchestra of Tucson
Classic Lyric Arts, Inc.
Classical Movements
Clean Water Land
Clinton Symphony Orchestra
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
Colorado Nonprofit Association
Colorado Springs Philharmonic
Community FoodBank of New Jersey
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, Inc.
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Connecticut Association of Nonprofits
Connections to Success
Conservation Trust for Florida
Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Copper River Watershed Project
Council of Michigan Foundations
Council on Foundations
CT Nonprofit Human Service Alliance
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dad's Garage, Inc.
Dakota Center, Inc.
Dance/USA
Defenders of Wildlife
Delaware Symphony Orchestra
Deschutes Land Trust
Detroit Zoological Society
Eagle Valley Land Trust
EcoTrust

Federation on Families for Children's Mental Health CO
Feeding America
First Choice Inspection Group, Inc, dba. Free Help Education Organization
FOOD for Lane County
Fort Worth Opera
Gallatin Valley Land Trust
Gilmore International Keyboard Festival & Awards
Gilroy Historical Society
Girl Scouts of the USA
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Great Peninsula Conservancy
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Greenville Symphony Orchestra
HeartLands Conservancy
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Housatonic Valley Association, Inc.
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Independent Sector
Indian Hill Music
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
IRIS Orchestra
JK Moving Services
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Kinney Land Company, LLC
Knoxville Opera
Ku'ikahi Mediation Center
Lake Erie Region Conservancy
Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp
Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation
Lancaster Farmland Trust
Land Trust Alliance
Land Trust of Arkansas
LeadingAge
LeadingAge California
League of American Orchestras
Lewis & Clark Trail Visitors Center Foundation
Lexington Symphony Orchestra
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
Lummi Island Heritage Trust
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Luther Crest Bible Camp
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Mariners Inn
Mark Morris Dance Group
McHenry County Historical Society & Museum
Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry
Memphis Symphony Orchestra

Michigan Historic Preservation Network
 Michigan Nonprofit Association
 Minnesota Opera
 Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
 Mohonk Preserve
 Monadnock Conservancy
 Montana Association of Land Trusts
 Mother Lode Land Trust
 Multiple System Atrophy Coalition
 MUSE/IQUE
 Museum of Fine Arts
 Nantucket Historical Association
 Naromi Land Trust
 Nashville Opera Association
 National Alliance of Forest Owners
 National Council of Nonprofits
 National Woodland Owners Association
 Nevada Land Trust
 New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition
 New River Conservancy
 New River Land Trust
 Niagara County Historical Society
 Nonprofit Association of Oregon
 North East Wisconsin Land Trust
 North Shore Land Alliance
 Northern California Regional Land Trust
 NY Funders Alliance
 Oakland Symphony
 Opacum Land Trust
 OPERA America
 Opera Memphis
 Orchestra Miami
 Oregon Food Bank
 OWL-The Voice of Women 40+
 Paducah Symphony Orchestra
 Peconic Land Trust
 Placer Land Trust
 Portland Opera Association
 Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
 Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
 Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company
 River Fields, Inc
 Rockford Area Historical Society
 Rockford Symphony Orchestra
 Rogue Valley Symphony
 SafeHouse Denver
 San Diego Visual Arts Network
 San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory
 Santa Cecilia Orchestra
 Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.
 Save Mount Diablo
 Seattle Opera
 Sequoia Riverlands Trust
 Shared Harvest Foodbank
 Shasta Land Trust
 Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
 Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance
 Sierra Foothill Conservancy
 Sledgehammer Theatre
 Somers Land Trust
 South Baltimore Learning Center
 Southeast Missouri Food Bank
 Speaker law firm
 Studebaker National Museum
 Tacoma Opera Association
 Tacoma Symphony Orchestra
 Tall Pines Consevancy
 Tewksbury Land Trust
 Texas Land Trust Council
 Thanksgiving Point Institute
 The Central Coast Land Conservancy
 The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
 The Cleveland Zoological Society
 The Conservation Foundation
 The Haggin Museum
 The Henry Ford
 The Jewish Federations of North America
 The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Salvation Army National Headquarters
 The Science Factory, Inc.
 The Trust for Public Land
 The Wooden Floor
 Three Village Community Trust
 Truckee Donner Land Trust
 United Charitable
 United Way Worldwide
 University of Nebraska State Museum
 Urban Gateways
 Utah Open Lands Conservation Association
 Utah Symphony | Utah Opera
 Valley Symphony Orchestra & Chorale
 Voices for Children
 VOICEexperience Foundation
 Washington Concert Opera
 Washington Nonprofits
 Washington St Family Service Center
 West Central Ohio Land Conservancy
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
 Western Reserve Land Conservancy
 Wild South
 Wildling Museum
 William King Museum of Art
 Winston-Salem Symphony
 Women's Business Development Center
 Wrightsville Beach Museum of History
 YMCA of the USA
 Ziegler Sanctuary

CC: All Members of the 114th Congress