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
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+
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 Conservancy
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 Conservancy
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
VOICEperience 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