



October 21, 2015

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 John Boehner
 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 Boehner, 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.

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.

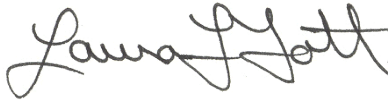
As you know, after multiple attempts last year to make these giving incentives permanent, in December, Congress resorted to a short-term extension as part of a broader package of lapsed tax provisions. As a result, the IRA charitable rollover and enhanced deductions for the donation of food inventory 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 per year 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,



Laura Lott
President and CEO
American Alliance of Museums



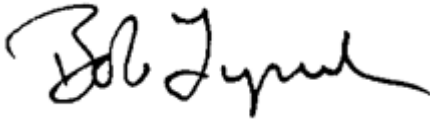
Vikki Spruill
President and CEO
Council on Foundations



Gail McGovern
President and CEO
American Red Cross



Diana Aviv
Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America



Robert L. Lynch
President and CEO
Americans for the Arts



Anna Maria Chávez
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of the USA



Christine Anagnos
Executive Director
Association of Art Museum Directors



Jim Gibbons
President and CEO
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.



Andrew Watt, FInstF
President and CEO
Association of Fundraising Professionals



Candy Hill
Interim Co-CEO
Independent Sector



Brian R. Corbin
Executive Vice President,
Member Services & Social Policy
Catholic Charities USA



Rand Wentworth
President
Land Trust Alliance



Larry Minnix
President and CEO
LeadingAge



Tim Delaney
President and CEO
National Council of Nonprofits



Jesse Rosen
President and CEO
League of American Orchestras



William Daroff
Senior Vice President for Public Policy &
Director of the Washington Office
The Jewish Federations of North America



Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO
Lutheran Services in America



Steve Taylor
Senior Vice President and Counsel, Public Policy
United Way Worldwide



Dr. Jennifer L. Howse
President
March of Dimes



Kevin Washington
President and CEO
YMCA of the USA

CC: All Members of the 114th Congress