

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 24, 2008

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs, we strongly encourage you to become a member of the new, bipartisan, Senate Philanthropy Caucus and help us support the long tradition of good works by the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors.

Over more than a century, organized philanthropy and the federal and state governments have forged a vital partnership that has improved every aspect of life in the United States. Many of the most important advances in American culture—educational reform, clean water systems, public health systems, and public libraries, to name just a few—began as philanthropic investments. The work done by private foundations, nonprofit groups, and individual philanthropists plays essential roles in each of our states and it is increasingly important for Members of Congress to be informed about developments in the philanthropic sector.

Last year, the 72,000 U.S. foundations gave an estimated \$42.9 billion, an increase of almost ten percent from 2006, while giving and bequests by individual Americans outpaced that amount by more than five-to-one. The financial and long-term impact of these dollars far outstrips even this combined total when you consider that in our constituents' communities:

- Foundation investments allow nonprofits of every kind to leverage many additional dollars from corporations and local, county, and state governments, as well as individual donors.
- Foundation investments provide the key funds that allow our communities to try new ideas, take risks, and test theories—in short, to carefully explore new ways to improve the quality of life.
- Foundations increasingly work not only to fund, but also to build capacity, at nonprofit groups – especially smaller nonprofits.
- The knowledge and social and economic benefits that accrue to communities with strong nonprofits—museums, libraries, hospitals, service agencies, etc.—almost defy quantification.

We hope that you can see the benefits of partnering with and assisting the philanthropic community as we move forward into the 111th Congress. Please join us in learning how to grow and support philanthropy by becoming a member of the Senate Philanthropy Caucus today. To join the caucus or for more information, please contact Jeff Hamond in Senator Schumer's office at 4-4422 or Steve Perrotta in Senator Burr's office at 4-0121.

Sincerely,



Senator Charles Schumer



Senator Richard Burr