**Op-Ed Template**

**Foundations to Senators: Urge Floor Vote on the *America Gives More Act***

By [INSERT NAME OF AUTHOR]

American foundations gave nearly $50 billion in 2013. That’s a massive investment in our nation, made possible by American generosity and supported by sound tax policies from Washington. With [NAME OF YOUR SENATORS] back in Washington D.C. for a busy and critical work period before the November elections, now is the perfect time to urge Senate leadership to bring the *America Gives More Act* (H.R. 4719) to a floor vote this month.

Foundations are rooted to the communities they serve and are uniquely able to combine resources across sectors to address emerging and ongoing needs. [YOUR FOUNDATION] is proud of the work with do in [name your state or multiple states], often with a wide array of partners and collaborators [if that’s accurate] [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLE (75-100 WORDS) OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT WORK – A PROGRAM OR SERVICE YOUR FOUNDATIONS SUPPORTS. INSERT A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND TRANSFORM LIVES, WHO AND HOW MANY PEOPLE IT SERVES AND THE RESULTS IT HAS ACHIEVED.]

The *America Gives More Act* takes an important step forward to enhance foundation support for our communities. Passed by a strong bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives on July 17, the Act will make permanent several tax policies that have proven successful in increasing community investment: the IRA charitable rollover; the enhanced deduction for food inventory donations; and the enhanced deduction for donations of conservation easements. These common sense policies would give donors confidence and certainty as they decide how to direct their charitable investments. [IF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF H.R. 4719, THANK THEM HERE]

The Act also simplifies the private foundation excise tax to a single rate. This measure will lift an administrative burden that creates a perverse incentive for private foundations to give less, not more, in times of need. Simplifying this complex tax will free up foundations to invest less resources in tax compliance and more in communities in your state.

We encourage [NAMES OF YOUR SENATORS] to take the time reach out to philanthropic leaders to learn how [HE/SHE] can best ensure that tax policies enhance and expand the impact of foundations. As a first step,, we request that [HE/SHE] urge the U.S. Senate to take up and approve *the America Gives More Act* immediately.

In the longer term, we look forward to working with [HE/SHE] to ensure that any changes made in future tax reform proposals enhance incentives for charitable giving.

*[INSERT AUTHOR’S NAME, TITLE AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTED]*