**Sample Letter to Senators**

Use the sample letter below as a guide for writing a letter to your Senators to urge them to push for a floor vote on the *America Gives More Act* (H.R. 4719). Please remember to **E-MAIL** your Senator’s office whenever possible. Due to heightened security, it can take up to a month for Members to receive letters sent via mail.

 **[Date]**

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| [To a Senator]The Honorable **[full name]****[Room #, Name of Building]**United States SenateWashington, DC 20510 |

Dear **[Senator last name]**:

While you were back in your state during August recess, you likely visited important community institutions like hospitals, libraries, universities, parks, food banks, and summer camps, I ask you to remember that all of these establishments benefit from private charitable giving—without which, vital services to your constituents will be lost.

During the September work period, you have a unique opportunity to support your state by enacting measures that encourage giving by both individuals and private foundations to these important pillars of your community. **I strongly urge you to ask Senate leadership to bring the *America Gives More Act* (H.R. 4719) to and the floor for a vote immediately, and to vote in favor of this important legislation.** [If letter is for Majority Leader Harry Reid or Minority Leader Mitch McConnell replace bolded sentence with: **I strongly urge you to bring the *America Gives More Act* (H.R. 4719) to a floor vote immediately.**]

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.

I encourage you to pay attention to the overwhelming benefits of charitable giving in your state, made stronger by these important tax provisions. The IRA charitable rollover encourages individuals to donate retirement account assets directly to a public charity without incurring a tax liability on the donation. Rollover donations help countless public charities to fulfill their charitable purposes. Among the beneficiaries, your local community foundations manage these rollover gifts and invest them in projects you see every day—from the new center at the local hospital or the new college scholarship program to the preservation of a historic community landmark and community development centers.

The enhanced deduction for donations of food inventory allows individuals or businesses to receive an increased tax deduction when they donate food to charities, such as food banks, that serve those who are most in need.

The enhanced deduction for land conservation easement donations incentivizes landowners to preserve the natural resources on their properties. This provision helps landowners afford to choose conservation over development of some of our country’s richest and most scenic land.

Making these provisions permanent will eliminate the tremendous uncertainty caused by frequent lapses and subsequent extensions.

The *America Gives More 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.

In today’s economy, when so many are doing more with less, we should ensure that philanthropic investments aren’t constrained by outdated tax policies.

On behalf of the **[foundation name]**, I urge you to consider the vital investments that foundations make in your state, and we urge you to voice your support for the *America Gives More Act*. Your community depends upon it.

Sincerely,

**[name and position]**