**TEMPLATE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS**

[DATE]

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME]:

As a [nonprofit/foundation], it is an honor and a privilege to serve the community in your district. [INSERT A THANK YOU FOR HIS/HER CURRENT OR PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR YOUR WORK, IF APPROPRIATE]

This week, nearly 150 philanthropy leaders from across the nation are meeting with Members of Congress during *Philanthropy Week in Washington* to discuss the vital role foundations and nonprofits play in creating jobs, supporting vulnerable communities, and stimulating research and innovation. Although I was unable to make the trip to DC to be part of this delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight several of the important issues that are being raised throughout the week.

During *Philanthropy Week*, Members of Congress are being invited to join the new Philanthropy Caucus. The House Caucus and the Senate Caucus will provide opportunities for Members and their staff to gain insight into how tax policy, budget, and legislative decisions affect foundations and the nonprofit organizations they support. It is heartening to see growing bipartisan support for the philanthropic sector, as evidenced by the leadership of the Philanthropy Caucuses by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Richard Burr (R-NC) and Congressmen John Lewis (D-GA-5) and Patrick Tiberi (R-OH-12).This provides further proof that the value our sector brings to communities resonates across party lines and ideologies.

Tax policy matters for our foundation.We know you and your Congressional colleagues continue to set the stage for comprehensive tax reform with a goal of streamlining the tax code, raising revenue and addressing the nation’s budget deficit. Please note, the right changes to the tax code have the ability to enhance and expand the positive work of foundations and nonprofit grantees. Ill-advised changes, however, could constrain our sector, consequently resulting in harmful effects on the communities we serve. Thus, tax incentives that encourage charitable giving must be protected to ensure philanthropy can continue our rich tradition of strengthening communities.

As you may know, 33 senators [INSERT MENTION OF YOUR SENATOR IF APPLICABLE], led by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senator John Thune (R-SD) recently signed a joint letter supporting the charitable deduction in its current form. While that is a step in the right direction, please know that our organization will remain vigilant about any proposals that impede charitable giving—including House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp’s (R-MI-4) proposed floor on the charitable deduction. Any caps or limits on charitable giving will have a cascading impact on our work, and the impact of our colleagues in the nonprofit sector.

In addition to preserving the current charitable deduction, the IRA charitable rollover – which expired at the end of 2013 – should be extended and made permanent. It encourages people to direct retirement savings to charity, thus increasing the potential for charitable giving. [PLACEHOLDER FOR LANGAGUE BELOW ON H.R.3944 OR S.1772, DEPENDING UPON WHETHER LETTER GOES TO REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR]

[REPRESENTATIVE: I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE ALAN GRAYSON’S (R-FL-9) BILL, [H.R. 3944](http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3944/text), TO EXPAND THE IRA ROLLOVER THROUGH 2014]

[SENATOR: I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SENATOR CHUCH SCHUMER’S (D-NY) BILL, [S.1772](http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1772?q=%7b%22search%22%3A%5b%22s1772%22%5d%7d), WHICH EXTENDS THE ROLLOVER PERMANENTLY AND EXPANDS IT TO INCLUDE OTHER TYPES OF GIFTS]

Philanthropy has a unique ability to innovate and create results – sometimes in ways government and for-profit entities cannot. Our sector is ready and willing to work with Congress to ensure there is a clear understanding on the vital role philanthropy plays in building a strong, resilient economy and thriving communities. However, tax policy decisions can enhance or diminish the instrumental work we do.

[THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE PHILANTHROPY CAUCUS AND FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO SUPPORT BUDGET AND TAX POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR AND OUR COMMUNITY]

OR

[WILL YOU JOIN THE PHILANTHROPY CAUCUS AND LEND YOUR SUPPORT FOR BUDGET AND TAX POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR AND OUR COMMUNITY]

Sincerely,