**Empowering Communities to Invest in their Futures**

Communities succeed when they are given the right resources to invest in their own futures. Foundations like [NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] are one vital tool allowing places like [NAME OF YOUR REGION] to do just that.

This week, I am joining over two hundred philanthropic leaders from across the country in our nation’s capital for Philanthropy Week in Washington. We are gathering there to share the message that foundations are empowering communities to address our country’s toughest challenges in ways tailored to meet local needs.

[INSERT A BRIEF EXAMPLE OF A PROGRAM IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY HERE. 2-3 SENTENCES LONG AND IDEALLY INCLUDING CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION.]

Together with other nonprofits, donors, volunteers, government, business, and academics, foundations are delivering innovative solutions tailored to meet the specific needs and circumstances of the communities they serve. That’s why it is so important that government look for ways to support the work of philanthropy in communities like ours.

One way governments can accomplish that is by engaging foundations as partners and stakeholders when designing new programs. The ability of foundations to act as community leaders, capacity builders, and investors makes them ideal candidates for collaboration with all levels of government. In partnerships, large and small, foundations help make government more efficient and effective.

Another way our federal lawmakers can support the work of foundations is to support the passage of the *America Gives More Act of 2015*. This important legislation, which last month passed the House of Representatives with broad bipartisan support, will give donors and foundations certainty about important tax incentives allowing them to better plan and grow their charitable investments for years to come.

The legacy of American philanthropy is driven by stories of countless individuals determined to forge a better society. We are rightly proud of this generosity and willingness to give. By standing with philanthropy, our leaders in Washington and here in [YOUR REGION] help us continue this legacy and build a brighter future.