



December 9, 2011

Representative Tim Huelskamp  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1601

Dear Representative Huelskamp:

On behalf of our organizations, we urge you to become a co-sponsor and advocate of a pending tax bill that makes the enhanced deductibility of eligible donated conservation easements a permanent tax provision. This law benefits landowners who voluntarily choose to permanently preserve their land as undeveloped open space and working farm or ranch land. Unless Congress passes the Conservation Easement Incentive Act (H.R. 1964) by December 31, 2011, this broadly supported conservation incentive will expire.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contained a two-year provision that significantly expanded the federal income tax incentives for landowners who voluntarily donate conservation easements on their property to qualified non-profit conservation organizations. This provision was extended until December 31, 2009 as part of the 2008 Farm Bill and extended again until December 31, 2011 with the passage of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. To date, the Kansas Congressional Delegation has been supportive of these measures. In fact, all 4 Kansas Representatives and both Senators were co-sponsors of the 2010 legislation that renewed this tax law. You should know that Representative Lynn Jenkins was an early co-sponsor of H.R. 1964.

*We ask you to join her as a co-sponsor of this legislation.*

Key provisions of H.R. 1964 include:

- An increase in the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- An increase in the deduction a qualified farmer and rancher can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% to 100%; and
- An extension of the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements from five to 15 years.

The previous tax law (prior to 2006) provided incentives for the donation of conservation easements, but only donors with high incomes have received meaningful or significant tax benefits. The new tax incentive is much friendlier to our state's agricultural landowners, who often have modest incomes, but desire to permanently give up the development rights of their land for conservation purposes.

For several years, our organizational leaders have cooperated on several voluntary initiatives to protect and preserve the landscapes, wildlife habitat, and working ranch lands that make the Flint Hills a national treasure. We are also focusing on large intact working ranch lands in the Smoky Hills and agriculture lands near and adjacent to Fort Riley with the Department of Defense's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program.

These conservation easement transactions often take over a year to complete, and we are working with individual landowners who will be unable to close on their conservation gift this year. Extending or making this tax incentive provision permanent, will be welcome news to these individuals as they complete their plans in 2012 to protect their lands for future generations.

A permanent federal tax law, as proposed by H.R. 1964, will benefit both participating landowners and the general public who gain from the perpetual conservation of agricultural lands and open spaces.

Attached is a list of H.R. 1964 co-sponsors. We respectfully ask you to join this list and support H.R. 1964's passage prior to the end of this year.

Please contact any of us with any questions.

Thank you!

Sincerely



Mike Beam  
Executive Director  
Ranchland Trust of Kansas  
785-273-5115  
mike@kla.org



Rob Manes  
State Director  
The Nature Conservancy - Kansas  
785-233-4400  
rmanes@tnc.org



Ginny Moore  
Executive Director  
Kansas Land Trust  
785-749-3297  
gmoore@klt.org

## Co-sponsors of Legislation to Make the Conservation Easement Tax Incentive Permanent in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

In the House, 268 Representatives from 47 states have co-sponsored the Conservation Easement Incentive Act. Reps. interested in co-sponsoring H.R. 1964 should contact Lori Prater in the office of Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) or Carla McGarvey in the office of Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA).

### LEAD SPONSORS:

- Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA/6th)\*
- Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA/1st)\*

### CO-SPONSORS (268, By state):

- Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL/1st)
- Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL/6th)
- Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL/7th)
- Rep. Don Young (R-AK/1st)
- Rep. Ed Pastor (D-AZ/4th)
- Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ/7th)
- Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR/1st)
- Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR/4th)
- Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA/3rd)
- Rep. Doris Okada Matsui (D-CA/5th)
- Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA/6th)
- Rep. George Miller (D-CA/7th)
- Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA/9th)
- Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA/10th)
- Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA/11th)
- Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA/12th)
- Rep. Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA/13th)\*
- Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA/14th)
- Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA/15th)
- Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA/16th)
- Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA/17th)
- Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA/18th)
- Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA/20th)
- Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA/21st)\*
- Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA/23rd)
- Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA/27th)
- Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA/28th)
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA/29th)
- Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA/30th)
- Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA/31st)\*
- Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA/32nd)
- Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA/33rd)
- Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA/34th)
- Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA/35th)
- Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA/38th)
- Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA/39th)
- Rep. Joe Baca (D-CA/43rd)
- Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA/44th)
- Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA/47th)
- Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA/51st)
- Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA/53rd)
- Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO/1st)
- Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO/2nd)
- Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO/3rd)
- Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO/4th)
- Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO/7th)
- Rep. John Larson (D-CT/1st)\*
- Rep. Joseph Courtney (D-CT/2nd)
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT/3rd)
- Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT/4th)
- Rep. Chris Murphy (D-CT/5th)
- Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
- Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL/1st)
- Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL/2nd)
- Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL/3rd)
- Rep. Katherine Castor (D-FL/11th)
- Rep. Dennis Ross (R-FL/12th)
- Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL/13th)\*
- Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL/18th)
- Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL/20th)
- Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL/21st)
- Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL/23rd)
- Rep. David Rivera (R-FL/25th)
- Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA/2nd)
- Rep. John Lewis (D-GA/5th)\*
- Rep. John Barrow (D-GA/12th)
- Rep. David Scott (D-GA/13th)
- Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI/1st)
- Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-HI/2nd)
- Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID/2nd)
- Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL/1st)
- Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL/2nd)
- Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL/3rd)
- Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL/4th)
- Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL/7th)
- Rep. Janice Schakowski (D-IL/9th)
- Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL/12th)
- Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL/14th)
- Rep. Timothy V. Johnson (R-IL/15th)
- Rep. Donald Manzullo (R-IL/16th)
- Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL/18th)\*
- Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN/1st)
- Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN/2nd)
- Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN/5th)
- Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA/1st)
- Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA/2nd)
- Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA/3rd)
- Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA/4th)
- Rep. Steve King (R-IA/5th)
- Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS/2nd)\*
- Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY/2nd)
- Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY/3rd)
- Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY/4th)\*
- Rep. Ben Chandler (D-KY/6th)
- Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-LA/5th)
- Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA/7th)\*
- Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME/1st)
- Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME/2nd)
- Rep. Dutch Ruppersburger (D-MD/2nd)
- Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD/3rd)
- Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD/6th)
- Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD/7th)
- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD/8th)
- Rep. John Oliver (D-MA/1st)
- Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA/2nd)\*
- Rep. James McGovern (D-MA/3rd)
- Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA/4th)
- Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA/5th)
- Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA/7th)
- Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA/8th)
- Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA/9th)
- Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI/1st)
- Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI/2nd)
- Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI/4th)\*
- Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI/5th)
- Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI/6th)
- Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI/8th)
- Rep. Gary Peters (D-MA/9th)
- Rep. William Keating (D-MA/10th)
- Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI/10th)
- Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI/11th)
- Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI/12th)\*
- Rep. Hansen Clarke (D-MI/13th)
- Rep. John Conyers (D-MI/14th)
- Rep. John Dingell (D-MI/15th)
- Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN/1st)
- Rep. John Kline (R-MN/2nd)
- Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN/3rd)\*
- Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN/4th)
- Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN/5th)
- Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN/7th)
- Rep. Alan Nunnelee (R-MS/1st)

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- Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS/2nd)
- Rep. Greg Harper (R-MS/3rd)
- Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO/1st)
- Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO/3rd)
- Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO/5th)
- Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO/9th)
- Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT/At-large)
- Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE/1st)
- Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE/2nd)
- Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE/3rd)\*
- Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV/1st)\*
- Rep. Charles Bass (R-NH/2nd)
- Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ/1st)
- Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ/2nd)
- Rep. Jon Runyan (R-NJ/3rd)
- Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ/4th)
- Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ/5th)
- Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ/6th)
- Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ/7th)
- Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ/8th)\*
- Rep. Steven Rothman (D-NJ/9th)
- Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ/10th)
- Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ/11th)
- Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ/12th)
- Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ/13th)
- Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM/1st)
- Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM/3rd)
- Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY/1st)
- Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY/2nd)
- Rep. Peter King (R-NY/3rd)
- Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY/4th)
- Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY/5th)
- Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY/7th)\*
- Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY/8th)
- Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY/9th)
- Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-NY/10th)
- Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY/11th)
- Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY/12th)
- Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY/13th)
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY/14th)
- Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY/15th)\*
- Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY/16th)
- Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY/17th)
- Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY/18th)
- Rep. Nan Hayworth (R-NY/19th)
- Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY/20th)
- Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY/21st)
- Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY/22nd)
- Rep. Bill Owens (D-NY/23rd)
- Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY/24th)
- Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY/27th)
- Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY/28th)
- Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY/29th)\*
- Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC/3rd)
- Rep. David Price (D-NC/4th)
- Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC/6th)
- Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC/7th)
- Rep. Larry Kissell (D-NC/8th)
- Rep. Sue Myrick (R-NC/9th)
- Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC/10th)
- Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC/11th)
- Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC/12th)
- Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC/13th)
- Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH/3rd)
- Rep. Robert Latta (R-OH/5th)
- Rep. Steve Austria (R-OH/7th)
- Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH/9th)
- Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-OH/12th)\*
- Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH/13th)
- Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-OH/14th)
- Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH/16th)
- Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH/17th)
- Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK/2nd)
- Rep. David Wu (D-OR/1st)
- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR/3rd)\*
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR/4th)
- Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR/5th)
- Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA/1st)
- Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA/4th)
- Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA/5th)
- Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA/7th)
- Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA/8th)
- Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA/9th)
- Rep. Mark Critz (D-PA/12th)
- Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA/13th)
- Rep. Michael Doyle (D-PA/14th)
- Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA/15th)
- Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA/16th)
- Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA/17th)
- Rep. Todd Russell Platts (R-PA/19th)
- Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI/1st)
- Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI/2nd)
- Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC/2nd)
- Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC/6th)
- Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN/1st)
- Rep. John Duncan (R-TN/2nd)
- Rep. Diane Black (R-TN/6th)\*
- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN/9th)
- Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX/3rd)\*
- Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX/8th)\*
- Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX/11th)
- Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX/13th)
- Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX/14th)
- Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX/15th)
- Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX/16th)
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX/18th)
- Rep. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX/20th)
- Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX/21st)
- Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX/25th)\*
- Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX/27th)
- Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX/28th)
- Rep. Gene Green (D-TX/29th)
- Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX/30th)
- Rep. John Carter (R-TX/31st)
- Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX/32nd)
- Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT/2nd)
- Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT/At-large)
- Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA/1st)
- Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA/3rd)
- Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-VA/4th)
- Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA/6th)
- Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA/8th)
- Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA/10th)
- Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA/11th)
- Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA/1st)
- Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA/2nd)
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA/5th)
- Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA/7th)\*
- Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA/8th)\*
- Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA/9th)
- Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV/3rd)
- Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI/2nd)
- Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI/3rd)\*
- Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI/4th)
- Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI/5th)
- Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY/At-large)

\* Ways & Means Committee Member

**In the Senate, 11 Senators have co-sponsored the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act, introduced by Senators Max Baucus (R-MT), Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Jon Tester (D-MT). Senators interested in co-sponsoring S. 339 should contact Tiffany Smith at the Senate Finance Committee.**

**LEAD SPONSORS:**

- Senator Max Baucus (D-MT)\*
- Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)\*
- Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)

**COSPONSORS (11 total, By state):**

- Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)
- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)

- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)
- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)\*

\* Finance Committee Member