

December 6, 2013

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4105

RE: Thank You for Defending the Charitable Deduction

Dear Senator Thune:

On behalf of 1,700 local land trusts all across America, the Land Trust Alliance thanks you for your leadership in standing up to protect the charitable deduction. The letter you and Senator Wyden recently sent the Senate Finance Committee sends an important message that the charitable deduction has been a uniquely effective part of our tax code, empowering American taxpayers to engage in philanthropy and support charitable initiatives, including land conservation.

Our membership includes organizations like Northern Prairies Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, working across South Dakota and all 50 states. Our member land trusts conserve in excess of 2 million acres of land every year. Without the generosity and philanthropic support engendered by the charitable deduction, this would simply not be possible. Nonprofit land trusts rely heavily on the charitable deduction to support their conservation efforts, working with private landowners to permanently conserve forests, fisheries, historic places, working ranches, farms, and open space for the benefit of all.

As the voice of our nation's 5 million land trust supporters and the thousands of private landowners who support conservation, we sincerely appreciate your leadership on this important issue. The charitable deduction is an indispensable tool for land trusts and the countless other nonprofit organizations that work to make our world a better place.

If you have any questions regarding the importance of the charitable deduction for nonprofit land trusts and private land, water and resource conservation, please contact me or the Land Trust Alliance's tax policy lead, Russ Shay, at 202-800-2230 or rshay@lta.org.

Sincerely,



Rand Wentworth
President

CC: The Honorable Ron Wyden, United States Senator