



April 3, 2013

Charitable/Exempt Organizations Tax Reform Working Group
House Committee on Ways and Means
1101 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Reichert, Vice Chairman Lewis and Members of the Working Group,

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF) represents twelve high capacity not-for-profit members who acquire, preserve and are committed to long-term, sustainable ownership and continued affordability of multifamily rental properties for low-income families, seniors, and disabled individuals. Since 2003, SAHF has promoted its members' shared notion that stable, affordable rental homes are critically important in people's lives. Together SAHF members provide homes to nearly 100,000 low-income households across the country.

We are writing to urge this working group to preserve the income tax deduction for charitable contributions as you consider reforming the tax code. As SAHF partner and LeadingAge CEO Larry Minnix highlighted in his recent testimony in front of this Committee, there are approximately 2 million tax-exempt organizations that employ over 13 million people in this country. Over half of these organizations are service focused in addition to foundations and religious congregations. SAHF members alone employ over 30,000 individuals. Without this deduction, the impact of these organizations in communities across the country could be lost. This includes the critical housing and supportive services SAHF members provide to low-income families, the elderly and disabled, veterans and the formally homeless in communities across the country. In a time of reduced government spending, it is critical that we do not place an additional burden on those in the private sector working to help the most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Clare Duncan (cduncan@sahfnet.org or 202-737-5974) with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Toby Halliday
Executive Vice President