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February 11, 2013

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman House Committee on Ways and Means
The United States House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Camp:

As Congress continues to discuss tax policy, we urge you **to maintain full deductibility of itemized charitable deductions. Furthermore, we urge you to support charitable giving by opposing proposals to cap the charitable deduction for federal taxpayers.** As a member of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, a regional group representing a broad cross-section of organizations, we are working to make sure members of Congress understand what impact a proposed reduction to the charitable deduction would have on those we serve.

America's economic recovery requires a strong philanthropic sector, whose role as a safety net and innovator is more important than ever for a faster, sustainable economic recovery. This is particularly true as local, state and federal budgets and nonprofits continue to suffer the consequences of America's recession – increased demand for services with significantly fewer resources to get the job done. As you can imagine, any cap or limitation on charitable deductions undermines charitable giving and would have long-lasting negative consequences.

Nonprofits in Northeast Florida generated \$620.1 million dollars in services. Nonprofits employ 56,935 our area's 1.37 million residents, or approximately 5% percent of the Northeast Florida population. Our community has over 1,000 nonprofits serving our corner of the region.

The charitable deduction is different than other itemized deductions in that it encourages individuals to give away a portion of their income to those in need. It rewards a selfless act, and it encourages taxpayers to give more funds to charities than they would otherwise have given. Data suggests that for every dollar a donor gets in tax relief for his or her donation, the public typically receives three dollars of benefit. No other tax provision generates that kind of positive public impact.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. (DH2304)

Stimulating Philanthropy to Build a Better Community

We urge you to maintain the current charitable deduction to promote a vibrant charitable sector and the benefits the sector provides to the economy and the American public. America's strong philanthropic tradition should not be dismantled by imposing limits on a 100-year tradition that encourages giving through charitable donations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement for the record. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the impact of nonprofits in communities across America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul I. Perez".

Paul I. Perez
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nina M. Waters".

Nina M. Waters
President