

February 13, 2013

John and Lulu Elam, Trustees
The Restoration Foundation

2112 Hampton Ave
Nashville, TN 37215
615-504-4632
john@johnelam.com

Comprehensive Tax Reform
The Itemized Deduction for Charitable Contributions

To the House Ways and Means Committee:

1. Charitable Foundations already established under existing Federal tax law are required to disburse money to 501c(3), tax deductible, organizations. Who will we give to if you eliminate tax deductions? If there were no benefit for non-profits, what would be the meaning of your continuing controls on which organizations we are allowed to give to? It would be control for no other purpose than control for control's sake. Since private charitable foundations were created because of the tax deduction, what would be the meaning of their continued existence?
2. Separation of Church and State suggests leaving religious organizations alone; otherwise, the government abandons separation and controls the religious organization. It makes as much sense for religious organizations to control the government. The First Amendment transcends and supersedes the central government's interest in collecting revenues. You are considering an assault on freedom to practice religion through religious associations, freedom to think and express through cultural organizations, and freedom of association in any organization without government interference. Taxation is interference. Still worse, the power to tax is the power to destroy. What are you thinking?
3. Government is already overextended; non-profits perform functions the government cannot possibly take on. Government is already overreaching; non-profits perform functions inappropriate for the government. Clearly the non-profit sector would be weakened by a federal attack on their financial base.

Thank you!
John Elam