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November 17, 2017

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U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator Chris Murphy
U.S. Representative Joe Courtney

Dear Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, and Representative Courtney,

On behalf of our entire organization and the more than 500 partners we serve in Southeastern CT, including arts, cultural and heritage nonprofit organizations and businesses, we are calling on you to protect the full scope and value of the tax deduction for all forms of charitable gifts and to preserve the historic tax credit. As the debate surrounding comprehensive tax reform and deficit reduction continues, we are very concerned about the charitable tax deduction and the historic tax credit.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has done recent analysis, and estimates that charities could see a staggering loss of up to \$20 billion in contributions annually under the House bill. Charitable giving incentives encourage donors to give more, benefiting the millions of Americans who access services provided by nonprofit organizations.

The recently released House tax reform bill fails to include this vital federal incentive, a proven tool that removes blighted buildings, creates local jobs and revitalizes older commercial districts. Elimination of the historic tax credit would cripple existing, planned and future revitalization projects surrounding historic mills, buildings and structures involving *millions of square feet* of property. Additionally, redevelopment of historic properties generates millions in local and state revenue.

The Historic Tax Credit is a vital source of capital investment in current projects here in our region, including the development of Ponemah Mills in Norwich, at least three major mill redevelopment projects in Stonington and New London, and many other revitalization projects in Southeastern CT.

I hope we can count on your support to ensure that any changes to the tax code will allow a universal charitable deduction available to 100 percent of all taxpayers, regardless if they itemize.

I hope we can also count of your support to prevent the elimination of the Historic Tax Credit, which would be devastating to economic development here in Southeastern CT and across the state.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and your continued advocacy.

Sincerely,



Wendy Bury, Executive Director