Support Legislation to Make Our Commitment 
To Land Conservation Permanent

The conservation tax incentive has been a success in increasing the pace, quality and permanence of land conservation.

Since the enhanced incentive first passed in 2006, roughly one million acres have been conserved per year with easements managed by the nation’s 1,700 community-based land trusts.

• Through an enhanced tax deduction, landowners can voluntarily place their most prized assets – historical sites, forests, family farms and ranches – in easements to ensure a legacy of natural abundance, enjoyment and agricultural production for future generations.

• Land placed in easements can be farmed, grazed, hunted or used for recreation and the conservation of natural resources. It can also be passed on to heirs or sold. But the land is kept safe from future development, ensuring that today’s natural treasures don’t become tomorrow’s strip malls and convenience stores.

• The enhanced incentive expired last year, and conservation easement enrollments are expected to plunge by at least 300,000 acres per year, or roughly one-third.

The time is NOW to enact legislation to make the enhanced tax incentive permanent.

In February 2015, the House passed H.R. 641, "The America Gives More Act," containing the tax incentive, with a bipartisan supermajority vote of 279-127. The Senate bill (S. 330) has wide bipartisan support as well, with 29 co-sponsors.

Please ask your senator to co-sponsor the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, S. 330, introduced by Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Senators interested in co-sponsoring should contact Jeremy Harrell in Heller’s office (224-6244) or Sarah Shive in Stabenow’s office (224-4822).

• The enhanced incentive has expired several times since its first passage. The on-again, off-again nature of this makes it difficult to attract and educate would-be easement donors, since this process can take years to finalize and can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

• Making the enhanced incentive permanent is about ensuring a legacy. Land tells the story of our nation, providing both a window to the past and a key to a healthy and secure future.

• 65 national organizations – ranging from National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited and American Farm Bureau Federation to the Environmental Defense Fund and National Audubon Society – support permanent enactment of the enhanced incentive.

America’s commitment to conservation is certain and the tax incentive that makes it possible should be permanent.

www.LandTrustAlliance.org