

United Jewish Communities

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June 18, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2803

Dear Senator Baucus:

On behalf of United Jewish Communities, the national organization that represents and serves 155 Jewish federations, their affiliated Jewish community foundations and 400 independent Jewish communities in more than 800 cities and towns across North America, I am writing to express our strong support for the Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008 that the Senate is considering this week, and especially the extension of the IRA charitable rollover provision, which is included in H.R.6049, the House-passed version of the extender legislation.

As you know, the Pension Protection Act in August 2006 enacted several charitable incentives designed to support important charitable works in communities throughout the country. The IRA Charitable Rollover provision provides persons aged 70½ and older with the opportunity to contribute to charity out of their individual retirement accounts without suffering adverse tax consequences. Through this essential giving program, Jewish Federations have received in excess of \$20 million from donors. These rollover contributions have become an essential funding source for our vital education, health, and social service programs.

We believe that restoration of the IRA Charitable Rollover incentive is an urgent matter that deserves the immediate attention of Congress. Adoption of the extender legislation would permit nonprofit organizations to raise resources that could be used throughout the year to provide or expand essential services to individuals and communities in need across the country. In addition, enactment now would provide sufficient time before the end of the year for potential donors to learn of the incentive and for charities to implement successful development strategies.

UJC commends your leadership in bringing the Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008 to the Senate floor. Restoration of the IRA Charitable Rollover and other expired and expiring incentives will have a direct impact on people and communities in need and we will continue to work with you to ensure that this vital legislation is enacted quickly.

Sincerely yours,

William C. Daroff
Vice-President for Public Policy &
Director of the Washington Office

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