

The Enhanced Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations Has Been Made Permanent

In strong bipartisan action, the House voted 318-109 and the Senate voted 65-33 to pass bills that made the tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent. The president signed these bills into law on December 18, 2015. The incentive will be applied retroactively to start January 1, 2015. An earlier version of the incentive expired December 31, 2014. The incentive encourages landowners to place a conservation easement on their land to protect important natural, scenic and historic resources.

How does the Enhanced Incentive Work?

The enhanced incentive can make a big difference for landowners who are thinking about donating a conservation easement. In particular, it allows working farmers and ranchers, as well as landowners with modest incomes, to realize more of the value of the deduction. Here's what the enhanced incentive does:

- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%
 - Allows qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI
 - Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years
- Stronger incentives mean more voluntary land conservation — a cost-effective way to save farms, forests, watersheds, wildlife habitat, scenic views, historic landmarks, natural areas and trails.

If you are interested in conserving your land, please contact our Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan at adeegan@ausbonsargent.org or call 603-526-6555.