

**UPSTATE NEW YORK DELEGATION
FOUNDATIONS ON THE HILL
MARCH 25, 2009**

1. Foundations - Part of the Fabric of our Upstate New York Communities.

Philanthropy is an integral part of the economic and social life of our region.

- We work closely with nonprofits, business and government to help those in need and build social capital.
- We act as responsible stewards of monies in public trust and strategically invest them in our communities.
- We believe that the field of philanthropy provides a strategic and long-range approach to solving problems.

2. Support Philanthropic Giving

Each year, you have the opportunity to influence philanthropic giving in your district through legislation. Here is what your grantmaking constituents support.

- We support the expansion of the IRA charitable rollover to include: gifts to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, and private foundations; gifts above \$100,000; and planned gifts. We also support the reinstatement and extension of the IRA charitable rollover beginning in 2010. IRA charitable rollovers in 2007 provided Upstate New York community foundations with over \$500,000 of new capital to benefit their communities. (Briefing enclosed)
- We support a revenue-neutral excise tax that will encourage increased giving by private foundations. The tax was enacted in 1969, along with other taxes that penalize self dealing, failure to make adequate minimum distribution, excess business holdings, jeopardizing investments, and taxable expenditures. (Briefing enclosed)
- We support maintaining the current law with respect to itemized charitable deductions. A reduction in the charitable deduction rate will reduce the current incentive for donors to give, thus reducing the amount of money available to support worthy non-profits in Upstate New York. At a time when charities and non-profits are faced with increasing demands from their communities, it is important that public policies support and encourage charitable giving. (Briefing enclosed)

3. Join the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus (Briefing enclosed)

- Belonging to the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus will keep you and your staff informed about foundations and the roles that they play in their communities and around the globe.
- Caucus members will discover the common interests they have with foundations and learn how legislation affects the charitable sector.
- We encourage you to join Representative Louise Slaughter and Senator Charles Schumer and support philanthropy by becoming a member of the caucus.

4. Connect with Funders in your District

- Working with local government, business and the philanthropic sector increases the opportunities to make a positive difference for your constituents.
- Grantmakers Forum of New York can put you in touch with funders in your district who can bring added resources to bear on community problem solving.

