

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

JUN 04 2007

RICH MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY
8551 GREENVILLE HWY
BREVARD, NC 28712

Employer Identification Number:
56-2625925
DLN:
17053362028016
Contact Person:
DONNA ELLIOT-MOORE ID# 50304
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
November 29, 2006
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Advance Ruling Ending Date:
December 31, 2010

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Choi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Robert Choi
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Information for Organizations Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)
Statute Extension

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INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3)

WHERE TO GET FORMS AND HELP

You can obtain forms and instructions by calling toll free 1-800-829-3676, through the Internet Web Site at www.irs.gov, and at local tax assistance centers.

You can obtain additional information about most topics discussed below through our customer service function by calling toll free 1-877-829-5500, or on our Web Site at www.irs.gov/eo. In addition, you should sign up for Exempt Organization's EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the charities pages of irs.gov. To subscribe, go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on "EO Newsletter."

NOTIFY US ON THESE MATTERS

If you change your name, address, purposes, operations or sources of financial support, please inform our TE/GE EO Determinations Office at the following address: Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 2508, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. If you amend your organizational document or by-laws, or dissolve, provide the EO Determinations Office with a copy of the amended documents. Please use your employer identification number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

FILING REQUIREMENTS

In your exemption letter, we indicated whether you must file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. If your exemption letter states that you are not required to file Form 990, you are exempt from these requirements. Otherwise, if your gross receipts are normally more than \$25,000, you must file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ with the Ogden Submission Processing Center, Ogden, UT 84201-0027.

You are eligible to file Form 990-EZ if your gross receipts are normally between \$25,000 and \$100,000, and your total assets are less than \$250,000. You must file the complete Form 990 if your gross receipts are over \$100,000, or your total assets are over \$250,000. The Form 990 instructions show how to compute your "normal" receipts.

Form 990 Schedule A is required for both Form 990 and Form 990-EZ.

Organizations With Gross Receipts of \$25,000 or Less

For tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006, you must file an annual electronic notice if your gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less. Alternatively, you may file a complete Form 990 Package if we send one to you.

Exception: Section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations must file Form 990 or

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Form 990-EZ even if gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less. However, supporting organizations of religious groups with gross receipts that are normally \$5,000 or less may file an annual electronic notice instead of Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Due Date of Return or Annual Electronic Notice

Your return or annual electronic notice is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. There are penalties for failing to file a complete return timely. For additional information on penalties, see the Form 990 instructions or call our toll free number.

Revocation of Tax-Exempt Status

For tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006, your tax-exempt status will be revoked as of the filing due date of the third year if you fail to file for three consecutive years Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or the annual electronic notice.

If your tax-exempt status is revoked because you failed to file for three consecutive years, you must reapply for exemption and pay the appropriate user fee.

UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME TAX RETURN

If you receive more than \$1,000 annually in gross receipts from a regular trade or business, you may be subject to Unrelated Business Income Tax and required to file Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. There are several exceptions to this tax:

1. Income you receive from the performance of your exempt activity,
2. Income from fundraisers conducted by volunteer workers, or where donated merchandise is sold, and
3. Income from routine investments such as certificates of deposit, savings accounts, or stock dividends.

There are special rules for income derived from real estate or other investments purchased with borrowed funds. This income is called "debt financed" income. For additional information regarding unrelated business income tax, see Publication 598, Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations, or call our toll free number shown above.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF APPLICATION AND INFORMATION RETURN

You are required to make your annual information return, Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return, or the date the return is filed. This rule also applies to any Form 990-T filed after August 17, 2006. You are also required to make available for public inspection your exemption application, any supporting documents, and your exemption letter. You must also provide copies

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of these documents to any individual, upon written or in person request, without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage.

You may fulfill this requirement by placing these documents on the Internet. Penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. Additional information is available in Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, or call our toll free number shown above.

FUNDRAISING

Contributions to you are deductible only to the extent that they are gifts and no consideration is received in return. Depending on the circumstances, ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not qualify as fully deductible contributions.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$250 OR MORE

Donors must have written substantiation from the charity for any charitable contribution of \$250 or more. Although it is the donor's responsibility to obtain written substantiation from the charity, you can assist donors by providing a written statement listing any cash contribution or describing any donated property.

This written statement must be provided at the time of the contribution. There is no prescribed format for the written statement. Letters, postcards and electronic (e-mail) or computer-generated forms are acceptable.

The donor is responsible for the valuation of donated property. However, your written statement must provide a sufficient description to support the donor's contribution.

For contributions of cash, a check or other monetary gift made on or after January 1, 2007, a donor cannot claim a tax deduction unless the donor maintains a record of the contribution in the form of either a bank record (such as a cancelled check) or a written communication from the charity (such as a receipt or letter) showing the name of the charity, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.

For additional information regarding donor substantiation, see Publication 1771, Charitable Contributions - Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements. For information about the valuation of donated property, see Publication 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORE THAN \$75 AND
CHARITY PROVIDES GOODS OR SERVICES

You must provide a written disclosure statement to donors who receive goods or services from you in exchange for contributions in excess of \$75.

Contribution deductions are allowable to donors only to the extent their contributions exceed the value of the goods or services received in exchange.

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Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as fully deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. If you conduct fundraising events such as benefit dinners, shows, membership drives, etc., where something of value is received, you are required to provide a written statement informing donors of the fair market value of the specific items or services you provided in exchange for contributions of more than \$75.

You should provide the written disclosure statement in advance of any event, determine the fair market value of any benefit received, determine the amount of the contribution that is deductible, and state this information in your fundraising materials such as solicitations, tickets, and receipts. The amount of the contribution that is deductible is limited to the excess of any money (and the value of any property other than money) contributed by the donor less the value of goods or services provided by the charity. Your disclosure statement should be made, no later than, at the time payment is received. Subject to certain exceptions, your disclosure responsibility applies to any fundraising circumstances where each complete payment, including the contribution portion, exceeds \$75. For additional information, see Publication 1771 and Publication 526, Charitable Contributions.

EXCESS BENEFIT TRANSACTIONS

Excess benefit transactions are governed by section 4958 of the Code. Excess benefit transactions involve situations where a section 501(c)(3) organization provides an unreasonable benefit to a person who is in a position to exercise substantial influence over the organization's affairs. If you believe there may be an excess benefit transaction in which you are involved, you should report the transaction on Form 990 or 990-EZ. For information on how to correct and report this transaction, see the instructions for Form 990 and Form 990-EZ, or call our toll free number shown above.

EMPLOYMENT TAXES

If you have employees, you are subject to income tax withholding and the social security taxes imposed under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA). You are required to withhold Federal income tax from your employee's wages and you are required to pay FICA on each employee who is paid more than \$100 in wages during a calendar year. To know how much income tax to withhold, you should have a Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, on file for each employee. Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Code are not required to pay Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) tax.

Employment taxes are reported on Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return. The requirements for withholding, depositing, reporting and paying employment taxes are explained in Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide, (Publication 15), and Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide, (Publication 15-A). These publications explain your tax responsibilities as an employer.

CHURCHES

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Churches may employ both ministers and church workers. Employees of churches or church-controlled organizations are subject to income tax withholding, but may be exempt from FICA taxes. Churches are not required to pay FUTA tax. In addition, although ministers are generally common law employees, they are not treated as employees for employment tax purposes. These special employment tax rules for members of the clergy and religious workers are explained in Publication 517, Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers. Churches should also consult Publications 15 and 15-A. Publication 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations, also discusses the various benefits and responsibilities of these organizations under Federal tax law.

PUBLIC CHARITY STATUS

Every organization that qualifies for tax-exemption as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is a private foundation unless it falls into one of the categories specifically excluded from the definition of that term [referred to in section 509(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4)]. In effect, the definition divides these organizations into two classes, namely private foundations and public charities.

The Code section under which you are classified as a public charity is shown in the heading of your exemption letter. This determination is based on the information you provided and the request you made on your Form 1023 application. Please refer to Publication 557 for additional information about public charity status.

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

The following information is provided for organizations that make grants to individuals. If you begin an individual grant program that was not described in your exemption application, please inform us about the program.

Funds you distribute to an individual as a grant must be made on a true charitable basis in furtherance of the purposes for which you are organized. Therefore, you should keep adequate records and case histories that demonstrate that grants to individuals serve your charitable purposes. For example, you should be in a position to substantiate the basis for grants awarded to individuals to relieve poverty or under a scholarship or education loan program. Case histories regarding grants to individuals should show names, addresses, purposes of grants, manner of selection, and relationship (if any) to members, officers, trustees, or donors of funds to you.

For more information on the exclusion of scholarships from income by an individual recipient, see Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

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Part X Public Charity Status (Continued)

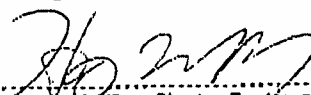
- e 509(a)(4)—an organization organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safety.
- f 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)—an organization operated for the benefit of a college or university that is owned or operated by a governmental unit.
- g 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)—an organization that receives a substantial part of its financial support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the general public.
- h 509(a)(2)—an organization that normally receives not more than one-third of its financial support from gross investment income and receives more than one-third of its financial support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions).
- i A publicly supported organization, but unsure if it is described in 5g or 5h. The organization would like the IRS to decide the correct status.

6 If you checked box g, h, or i in question 5 above, you must request either an advance or a definitive ruling by selecting one of the boxes below. Refer to the Instructions to determine which type of ruling you are eligible to receive.

- a Request for Advance Ruling: By checking this box and signing the consent, pursuant to section 6501(c)(4) of the Code you request an advance ruling and agree to extend the statute of limitations on the assessment of excise tax under section 4940 of the Code. The tax will apply only if you do not establish public support status at the end of the 5-year advance ruling period. The assessment period will be extended for the 5 advance ruling years to 8 years, 4 months, and 15 days beyond the end of the first year. You have the right to refuse or limit the extension to a mutually agreed-upon period of time or issue(s). Publication 1035, *Extending the Tax Assessment Period*, provides a more detailed explanation of your rights and the consequences of the choices you make. You may obtain Publication 1035 free of charge from the IRS web site at www.irs.gov or by calling toll-free 1-800-829-3676. Signing this consent will not deprive you of any appeal rights to which you would otherwise be entitled. If you decide not to extend the statute of limitations, you are not eligible for an advance ruling.

Consent Fixing Period of Limitations Upon Assessment of Tax Under Section 4940 of the Internal Revenue Code

For Organization


(Signature of Officer, Director, Trustee, or other authorized official)

Henry W. Birdsong
(Type or print name of signer)

12/13/06
(Date)

Trustee
(Type or print title or authority of signer)

For IRS Use Only


IRS Director, Exempt Organizations

JUN 04 2007
(Date)

b Request for Definitive Ruling: Check this box if you have completed one tax year of at least 8 full months and you are requesting a definitive ruling. To confirm your public support status, answer line 6b(i) if you checked box g in line 5 above. Answer line 6b(ii) if you checked box h in line 5 above. If you checked box i in line 5 above, answer both lines 6b(i) and (ii).

- (i) (a) Enter 2% of line 8, column (e) on Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses.
- (b) Attach a list showing the name and amount contributed by each person, company, or organization whose gifts totaled more than the 2% amount. If the answer is "None," check this box.
- (ii) (a) For each year amounts are included on lines 1, 2, and 9 of Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each disqualified person. If the answer is "None," check this box.
- (b) For each year amounts are included on line 9 of Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each payer, other than a disqualified person, whose payments were more than the larger of (1) 1% of line 10, Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, or (2) \$5,000. If the answer is "None," check this box.

7 Did you receive any unusual grants during any of the years shown on Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses? If "Yes," attach a list including the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, a brief description of the grant, and explain why it is unusual. Yes No



**Internal
Revenue
Service**

**OHIO DISTRICT
TE/GE Division
(Cincinnati POD)**

Facsimile Cover Sheet

TO JOHN H WARREN	FROM CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
PHONE NUMBER	SALLY FROEHLE
FAX NUMBER 843-577-6843	PHONE NUMBER 513-263-3447
DATE 9/20/2007	FAX NUMBER-513-263-4330
	NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 9

COMMENTS