

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2013-22

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4
5 Councilor Ives
6 Councilor Trujillo
7 Councilor Calvert
8 Councilor Wurzbarger
9

10 AN URGENT RESOLUTION

11 SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO PRESERVE THE CHARITABLE GIVING
12 INCENTIVE IN AN EFFORT TO CONTINUE AND CODIFY CONSERVATION
13 EASEMENT TAX BENEFITS.

14
15 WHEREAS, Congress is continuing to negotiate to avoid the “fiscal cliff” of automatic tax
16 hikes and spending cuts; and

17 WHEREAS, proposals have emerged to cap to all itemized deductions, including the
18 charitable giving incentive; and

19 WHEREAS, such a cap on charitable contributions would have a significant negative impact
20 on voluntary conservation; and

21 WHEREAS, if a cap of \$17,000, \$25,000 or even \$50,000 a year on all itemized deductions
22 were to become reality, it would take away a major incentive for voluntary conservation of family
23 lands and working ranches; and

24 WHEREAS, immediate action is necessary to ensure the survival of the charitable deduction;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, a charitable deduction cap could dramatically reduce cash gifts to local land
2 trusts and other conservation organizations nationwide, and would be particularly damaging for large
3 gifts of land and conservation easements – which now total more than \$2 billion of land conservation
4 annually; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a cap on charitable deductions will primarily hurt charities which by their
6 nature, are entirely discretionary and a cap would entirely eliminate the tax incentive for giving; and

7 **WHEREAS**, a cap will not end donations: but it will definitely reduce them, as it did in 1987
8 after 1986 tax reform changes made the deduction less available; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the cap is particularly serious for land conservation, because land donations are
10 typically worth hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a cap would also impact bargain sales of easements and land, probably
12 effectively cutting 20% from the purchasing power of public conservation funding; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a cap on deductions could also, over time, have a huge and unstudied effect on
14 the creation and sustenance of foundations and many family foundations are funded by donations
15 made every year by their principals; and


16 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body desires to submit this resolution as part of the
17 Congressional record which is due by February 28, 2013.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
19 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body supports Congressional action to preserve the
20 charitable giving incentive in an effort to continue and codify conservation easement tax credits.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to immediately forward a
22 copy of this resolution to the City's Congressional delegation.

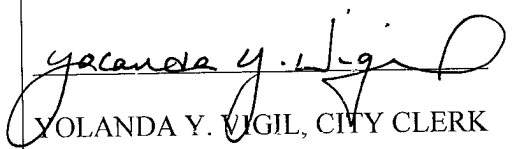
23 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 27th day of February, 2013.
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DAVID COSS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY