

September 2, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 164 – Personal income tax: voluntary contributions

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 164 relative to two voluntary contribution funds on the Personal Income Tax (PIT) form.

The Personal Income Tax Law authorizes individual taxpayers to designate on their PIT return contribution amounts in excess of their tax liability for the support of 15 voluntary contribution funds (VCFs). Two of these funds, the State Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program, are set to sunset on January 1, 2013. Senate Bill 164 would extend the sunset date to January 1, 2018.

Both the Children's Trust Fund and the Preservation Program have enjoyed significant success as VCFs. Each of these funds first appeared on the PIT in 1983. The Franchise Tax Board reports that in calendar year 2010, the Children's Trust Fund received \$448,081 in contributions, while the Preservation Program received \$578,215.

Contributions to the Children's Trust Fund are allocated to the Department of Social Services for innovative child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs. Contributions to the Preservation Program are allocated to the Department of Fish & Game for various programs for endangered and rare animals and plants.

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Senate Bill 164 has received broad bipartisan support and **there is no opposition to the bill**. The bill enjoys a wide range of support, including the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, The Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, The Child Abuse Prevention Center, Children Now, and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

Senate Bill 164 would allow these two important programs to continue to receive much needed funds through *voluntary* contributions on PIT returns until January 1, 2018.

I respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 164.

Sincerely,

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District

cc: Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary
Gareth Elliott, Legislative Secretary
Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary