



February 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

On behalf of the Community Impact Coalition, I am writing to extend our congratulations on your recent appointment and confirmation as Secretary of the Treasury. We are grateful for the experience and insights that you will bring to the role during these transformative times. As you begin your tenure, we look forward to collaborating with you on issues critical to all Americans.

Anticipating significant tax legislation this year, the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) has formed the Community Impact Coalition—a unified initiative dedicated to educating the 119th Congress about the societal and economic benefits of associations, charities, and other tax-exempt organizations. As a coalition, we acknowledge the work that is being done to address expiring tax cuts and efforts to make the government more efficient.

However, we want to ensure that our industry remains strong and is able to step in and fill gaps where government and businesses cannot.

As you know first-hand, nonprofits serve as vital partners in bridging gaps that often fall outside governmental reach. They feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, advance medical research, support veterans, serve people with disabilities, and deliver disaster relief. They also represent health care providers and school-based instructional support personnel who provide vital services that ensure the health and well-being of Americans at all ages. These mission-driven organizations step in where government and for-profit business cannot or will not. Equally important, nonprofits reinvest revenue into their missions, and truly embody the spirit of public service, empowering communities and improving lives nationwide.

Increased financial pressures coupled with potential legislative and regulatory changes could threaten nonprofits' ability to serve Americans.

Nonprofits could be forced to cut programs, turn people away, or shut their doors entirely. That is a cost America cannot afford. When the nonprofit community thrives, America thrives.

Additionally, nonprofit associations are the primary source of post-college education and skills training for America's workforce, and many associations create product service standards that improve safety and efficiency for consumers and businesses alike.

From children's toys, to the mattresses we sleep on, the food that we put on our dinner tables, and the cleaning and disinfectants products that ensure our public health and safety, standard setting in the U.S. has historically been a process driven by associations and the private sector, with the government in a supporting role.

Not only do associations define and advance standards for professional certification, performance, and ethical practices, but they are also vital to America's job market, directly supporting 1 million jobs, and providing more than \$71.4 billion in wages throughout all 50 states. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 501(c)(3) nonprofits alone accounted for 12.8 million jobs, 9.9% of private-sector employment.

We respectfully encourage you to protect and support policies that safeguard and strengthen the nonprofit sector. We can collectively foster a more resilient and robust society by protecting the unique contributions of nonprofit organizations. Eroding the financial foundation of these organizations will have wide ranging and potentially dangerous ripple effects throughout the economy.

The Community Impact Coalition stands ready to support your efforts in this regard. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you and your staff to ensure nonprofits remain empowered to address the evolving needs of our communities. We are prepared to assist you in providing insights, data, or any other resources to sustain this shared mission.

Once again, congratulations on this significant achievement, and we wish you the greatest success in your tenure as Secretary of the Treasury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Caldeira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Caldeira" clearly distinguishable.

Stephen J. Caldeira

President & CEO

Household & Commercial Products Association

Chair, Community Impact Coalition