



## Gift Acceptance Policy

The American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI) is a national nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2008 and sustained by a unique collaboration of conservation and science organizations, wildlife management agencies, and wind industry companies. In alignment with our mission –*to facilitate timely and responsible development of wind energy, while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat* – AWWI works to advance scientific research and collaboration to better understand wind energy’s risks to wildlife and develop solutions.

The purpose of the AWWI Gift Acceptance Policy is to govern the acceptance of gifts to the organization and to provide guidance to donors and their professional advisors. AWWI solicits and accepts gifts that are consistent with our mission and that support core programs and special projects. Donations will generally be accepted from individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, or other entities, subject to limitations described below. AWWI urges all prospective donors to seek the assistance of legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts.

AWWI generally accepts the following types of gifts:

- **Cash:** AWWI may accept outright cash gifts in any amount.
- **Publicly-traded Stocks:** AWWI may accept gifts of publicly-traded stocks and bonds at fair market values as determined under Internal Revenue Service rules. Gifts of publicly-traded securities will generally be sold as soon as possible.
- **In-kind Services:** AWWI may accept gifts of in-kind services.
- **Other Types of Gifts:** AWWI will consider other types of gifts on a case-by-case basis, and is able to establish a relationship with a community foundation to consider more complex gift transactions, including potential gifts of tangible personal property, real estate, life insurance policies, closely-held stock or partnership interests, irrevocable charitable trusts, or charitable gift annuities. All potential gifts in these forms will be discussed and determined individually in consultation with the potential donor, their financial and legal advisors, and AWWI counsel.

All gifts to AWWI will be reviewed using the following guidelines:

- **Mission & Independence:** whether the acceptance of the gift compromises AWWI’s ability to deliver on our mission or impact the credibility of our science and work products. Whether acceptance of the gift is consistent with carrying out our mission and strategic plan.
- **Compatibility:** whether there is compatibility between the intent of the donor and AWWI’s use of the gift.
- **Relationships with Partners and Friends and the Public:** whether acceptance of the gift will damage the reputation of AWWI.
- **Public Benefit:** whether the use of the gift serves the public interest, versus private interests, including those of the donor, more than incidentally. Use of the gift to provide economic benefits to AWWI insiders (e.g. directors, officers, key employees, substantial contributors, and

others who are in a position to exercise substantial influence over AWWI) is prohibited, except payments for goods or services that are fair and reasonable under the circumstances.

- **Form of Gift:** whether the gift is offered in a form that AWWI can use without incurring substantial expense or difficulty.
- **Effect on Future Giving:** whether the gift will encourage or discourage future gifts.

The American Wind Wildlife Institute reserves the right to refuse any proposed gift if AWWI determines that such refusal is in the best interest of AWWI.

AWWI requires its staff and Board to observe all established professional and ethical standards in gift discussions and transactions. AWWI will not make any quid-pro-quo agreements with donor-vendors and will support the arm's length nature of the applicable contract and the fair value of the consideration paid by AWWI under the contract.

AWWI will provide a written acknowledgement to donors making a charitable contribution, including estimated value of goods or services, if any, that AWWI provided in exchange for the gift. For in-kind or non-cash contributions, AWWI will describe the donation but not estimate its value.

Any proposed gifts that are not covered within this policy or that present special circumstances will be reviewed by the AWWI Executive Director in consultation with the Board of Directors Executive Committee.

AWWI's Gift Acceptance Policy will be reviewed annually by senior staff, updated as necessary to reflect changes in AWWI organizational needs, desired gift acceptance criteria, or relevant changes to federal or state laws pertaining to 501(c)(3) charitable contributions. Proposed amendments will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.

#### **Approval History**

Originally Approved by Board April 15, 2010

Updated and Approved by Board October 16, 2014

Updated and Approved by Board October 3, 2018

Updated and Approved by Board July 29, 2020