



TAX EXEMPT AND
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

AUG 4 2003

Date: 1111 2 4 2003

Kickapoo/Mud Creek Nature Conservancy
c/o Kent Lawrence
Lawrence, Kamin, Saunders & Uhlenhop
208 S. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1750
Chicago, IL 60604-1188

Employer Identification Number:
36-4471558
Issuing Specialist:
David S. Rosner, Id # 50-23630
Toll Free Customer Service:
877-829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December

Dear Applicant:

Based on the information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

Based on the information submitted with your application, we have determined that you are likely to qualify as a private operating foundation described in section 4942(j)(3) of the Code. Accordingly, you are treated as a private operating foundation for your first year. After that, you will be treated as a private operating foundation as long as you continue to meet the requirements of section 4942(j)(3).

This ruling recognizes that you have satisfied the good faith determination requirement of section 53.4942(b)-3(b)(2) of the Foundation and Similar Excise Taxes Regulations.

Please notify the Ohio Tax Exempt and Government Entities (TE/GE) Customer Service office if there is any change in your name, address, sources of support, purposes or method of operation. If you amend your organizational document or bylaws, please send a copy of the amendment to that office. The mailing address is: Internal Revenue Service, TE/GE Customer Service, P.O. Box 2508, Cincinnati, OH 45201.

You are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. Since you are a private foundation, you are subject to excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. You also may be subject to other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of Code sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

Contribution deductions are allowable to donors only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction

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with fund-raising events may not necessarily qualify as fully deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. If your organization conducts fund-raising events such as benefit dinners, shows, membership drives, etc., where something of value is received in return for payments, you are required to provide a written disclosure statement informing the donor of the fair market value of the specific items or services being provided. To do this you should, in advance of the event, determine the fair market value of the benefit received and state it in your fund-raising materials such as solicitations, tickets, and receipts in such a way that the donor can determine how much is deductible and how much is not. Your disclosure statement should be made, at the latest, at the time payment is received. Subject to certain exceptions, your disclosure responsibility applies to any fund-raising circumstance where each complete payment, including the contribution portion, exceeds \$75. In addition, donors must have written substantiation from the charity for any charitable contribution of \$250 or more.

You are required to file Form 990-PF, *Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as a Private Foundation*. Form 990-PF must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. A penalty of \$20 a day is charged when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. The maximum penalty charged cannot exceed \$10,000 or 5 percent of your gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. For organizations with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 in any year, the penalty is \$100 per day per return, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. The maximum penalty for an organization with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 shall not exceed \$50,000. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete, so please be sure your return is complete before you file it. Form 990-PF should be filed with the Ogden Service Center, Ogden, UT 84201-0027. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your present or future activities are subject to Chapter 42 of the Code.

You are required to make certain returns available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return or the date the return is filed. The returns required to be made available for public inspection are Form 990-PF, *Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Nonexempt Charitable Trust Treated as a Private Foundation*, and Form 4720, *Return of Certain Excise Taxes on Charities and Other Persons Under Chapters 41 and 42 of the Internal Revenue Code*. You are also required to make available for public inspection your exemption application, any supporting documents, and this exemption letter. Copies of these documents must be provided 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 you may call our toll free number shown above.

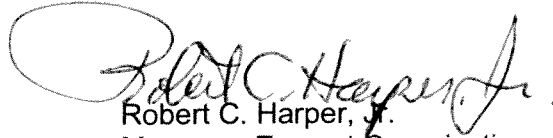
You are not required to file federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, *Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return*. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

Please use the employer identification number indicated in the heading of this letter on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service. Because this

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letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records. If you have any questions about this letter, or about filing requirements, excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please contact the Ohio TE/GE Customer Service office at 877-829-5500 (a toll free number) or correspond with that office using the address indicated above.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Harper, Jr.
Manager, Exempt Organizations
Technical Group 3