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## *Make a Bequest for Future Generations*

We all want to leave behind a better planet for future generations. You can support this vision for years to come by including Texas Campaign for the Environment (TCE) in your will. A gift through your will not only leaves behind your legacy and commitment to a healthier environment, it also allows you to give beyond your current means and amplify your impact.

If you are considering making a bequest to Texas Campaign for the Environment, contact us at [vic@texasenvironment.org](mailto:vic@texasenvironment.org) or 512-326-5655 so we can help explain your options and describe the process. If you've already included us in your will, please let us know so that we can say thank you!

A bequest is a gift made through a will or a living trust. It's the most popular and easiest planned gift, and it costs nothing during your lifetime. A bequest can be included in a new will or added to an existing will or living trust through a simple amendment—often without the expense of hiring a lawyer.

You can give a general, specific, residuary, or contingent bequest. We recommend consulting a financial advisor to determine the role of your bequest in your estate planning.

- **General bequest** is a gift of a specific amount to a specific person or entity. This is the most common type of bequest. For example, you could give \$10,000 to TCE.
- **Specific bequest** is a gift of a specific *item or asset* to a specific person or entity. While in a general bequest, only the value of the gift is important, in a specific bequest, the item or asset itself is important. The bequest should describe in detail the specific item or asset being given so that it is unmistakable. For example, you could give your real estate, located at 1 Main Street, Anytown, Texas, or you could give your 500 shares of stock of XYZ Corporation.
- **Residuary bequest** is a gift of all or a portion of the remainder of your assets after all other bequests have been made as well as debts and taxes have been paid. For example, you could give TCE 20% of your assets remaining after gifts have been made to all of your other beneficiaries.
- **Contingent bequest** is a gift made on the condition of a certain event that might or might not happen. Most commonly, the condition is that your primary beneficiary passes away before you. Contingent bequests can be specific, general, or residuary. For example, you could give \$10,000 to TCE if your spouse passes away before you.

# Sample Bequest Language

## **General Bequest**

I give and bequeath [“\$\_\_\_” or “\_\_ percent of my estate” ] to Texas Campaign for the Environment, located at 814 San Jacinto #408, Austin, TX 78701, federal tax ID #74-2808805.

## **Specific Bequest**

I give and bequeath [description of specific item] to Texas Campaign for the Environment, located at 814 San Jacinto #408, Austin, TX 78701, federal tax ID #74-2808805.

## **Residuary Bequest**

I give and bequeath [“all” or “\_\_ percent”] of my residuary estate, which is all the rest, residue, and remainder of my property, real and personal of every kind and description and wherever located, belonging to me at the time of my death or subject to my disposal by will, to Texas Campaign for the Environment, located at 814 San Jacinto #408, Austin, TX 78701, federal tax ID #74-2808805.

## **Contingent Bequest**

If the above-named beneficiary predeceases me, then I give and bequeath [“\$\_\_\_” or “\_\_ percent of my estate” or description of specific item] to Texas Campaign for the Environment, located at 814 San Jacinto #408, Austin, TX 78701, federal tax ID #74-2808805.