

## **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

### **1. CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION**

Disclosures in Tax Shelter Opinions: This collection of information is necessary to fully inform taxpayers obtaining advice concerning tax shelters. In addition, the collection of information will assist the Commissioner, through the Office of Professional Responsibility, to ensure that practitioners properly advise taxpayers regarding the limits of tax shelter opinions provided and the need to obtain independent tax advice.

### **2. USE OF DATA**

As stated above, the disclosures will ensure that taxpayers are provided with adequate information regarding the limits of tax shelter advice that they receive, and also to ensure the practitioners properly advise of taxpayers of relevant information with respect to tax shelter opinions.

### **3. USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE BURDEN**

IRS Publications, Regulations, Notices and Letters are to be electronically enabled on an as practicable basis in accordance with the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998.

### **4. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION**

We have attempted to eliminate duplication within the agency, wherever possible.

### **5. METHODS TO MINIMIZE BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES OR OTHER SMALL ENTITIES**

Not applicable.

### **6. CONSEQUENCES OF LESS FREQUENT COLLECTION ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS OR POLICY ACTIVITIES**

Not applicable.

### **7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING DATA COLLECTION TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES IN 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)**

Not applicable.

**8. CONSULTATION WITH INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF THE AGENCY ON AVAILABILITY OF DATA, FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION, CLARITY OF INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS, AND DATA ELEMENTS**

A notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the **Federal Register** on January 12, 2001 (66 FR 3276) that proposed amendments to the regulations relating to practice before the Internal Revenue Service in general and addressing tax shelter opinions in particular. On July 26, 2002, final regulations TD 9165(67 FR 48760), were issued incorporating only the non-tax shelter related matters.

In response to the **Federal Register** notice dated February 4, 2010 (75 FR 5861), we received no comments during the comment period regarding Regulation 122379-02.

**9. EXPLANATION OF DECISION TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT OR GIFT TO RESPONDENTS**

Not applicable.

**10. ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES**

Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential as required by 26 USC 6103.

**11. JUSTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE QUESTIONS**

Not applicable.

**12. ESTIMATED BURDEN OF INFORMATION COLLECTION**

31 C.F.R. § 10.35(d): Practitioners providing tax shelter opinions must make certain disclosures in the beginning of marketed tax shelter opinions, limited scope opinions and opinions that fail to conclude at a confidence level of at least more likely than not. In addition, practitioners providing tax shelter opinions must disclose certain relationships between the practitioner and a person promoting or marketing the tax shelter. It is estimated that the above requirements will affect 100,000

practitioners per year, with a burden of approximately 8 minutes per respondent, for an annual burden of 13,333 hours.

Estimates of the annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens shown are not available at this time.

**13. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS**

As suggested by OMB, our **Federal Register** notice dated February 4, 2010, requested public comments on estimates of cost burden that are not captured in the estimates of burden hours, i.e., estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information. However, we did not receive any response from taxpayers on this subject. As a result, estimates of the cost burdens are not available at this time.

**14. ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Not applicable.

**15. REASONS FOR CHANGE IN BURDEN**

There is no change in the paperwork burden previously approved by OMB. We are making this submission to renew the OMB approval.

**16. PLANS FOR TABULATION, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Not applicable.

**17. REASONS WHY DISPLAYING THE OMB EXPIRATION DATE IS INAPPROPRIATE**

We believe that displaying the OMB expiration date is inappropriate because it could cause confusion by leading taxpayers to believe that the regulations sunset as of the expiration date. Taxpayers are not likely to be aware that the Service intends to request renewal of the OMB approval and obtain a new expiration date before the old one expires.

**18. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT ON OMB FORM 83-I**

Not applicable.

**Note:** The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information in this submission:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.