From:	Dr. Henry Steinberger
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	form 990 and the church exemption
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 2:42:01 PM

September 11, 2015 (before the cutoff date of September 14th)

Dear Ms. Preston,

I'd like to add my voice and comment on what I see as not just unfair favoritism allowed towards religious organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc. and the people/organizations behind them) and allows those organizations and their leaders to acquire huge amounts of tax-free money. I was always aware of this issue, but anyone who watched the TV program, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, saw that some of these churches are run to raise millions of untaxed dollars affording their leaders amazing luxuries tax-free.

I volunteer in several 501c3 organizations including SMART Recovery and Moderation Management, and we have to spend time and energy to maintain our tax free status, while these churches do not have to do so. Worse, they have huge amounts of money and access to legislators. I'm not saying that they can pressure the IRS, but it does seem odd that they receive this special treatment. My organizations help people recovery from addictions and live more full and meaningful lives. We provide help based on science without demanding that those who come to us must adopt a spiritual or religious component in their recovery – and we have lots of folks who benefit greatly. We could help more people if we didn't have to hire lawyers and accountants to help us file 990's to prove that we are what we say. And, for me, it is infuriating that these so-called reverends and ministers are buy up multiple cars and planes for their own use, investing in businesses and property that they can afford to hold and sell later so as to turn big profits, while no tax payers or tax-free organizations can engage in such egregious looting (not that we'd want to).

So, simply as a matter of fairness, please include my comments and consider changing this unfair treatment of some 501c3's and favoritism toward those that hide their profits under the rubric of religion.

Thanking you most sincerely for your attention and consideration,

Henry Steinberger

Henry Steinberger, Ph.D., APA-CPP (Substance Use Disorders)

Henry Steinberger PhD LLC
313 Price Place, Suite 209; Madison WI 53705
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