From: Sonja Maglothin
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: tax exemption Form 990
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:40:29 AM

Dear Ms. Preston,

As an atheist tax-paying American citizen, I am deeply disturbed by the IRS's preferential treatment of religious organizations' claim of tax exemption. This amounts to government endorsement of religion over secularism, and defies the First Amendment.

All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse a secular position or a religious position. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with, or lose their exemption. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures. The privilege of not being taxed must come with some measures of accountability.

Please make churches conform to the same IRS requirements as all other 501(c)(3) groups. This will hold religious organizations to the same standard as secular non-profits and maintain Separation of Church and State, as the Bill of Rights intends.

Sincerely,
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