From: Stuart Bechman
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Public Comments on Improving Form 990
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:29:14 PM

Dear Ms. Preston:

In regards to suggestions to improving filing of the annual Form 990 for non-profits, I would urge you to terminate the special exemptions that religious organizations receive in regards to filing the form.

There is no valid secular reason for religious organizations to be treated any differently than other non-profits, and in fact such special treatment goes against both Article VI and the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Congress and the media have documented gross abuses by religious leaders who have made vast fortunes in their ministries on the backs of poor and desperate people without having to report (or pay taxes on) any of it or otherwise being held accountable for their promises and misdeeds. As taxpayers, we are subsidizing these organizations. Requiring them to report how they make their fortunes and how they spend their ministry dollars is the very minimum that we should expect of these non-profits, as we expect of all other US non-profits.

Thank you for your interest.

-Stuart Bechman
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