From: Linda File
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990 comments
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:03:51 PM

Dear Ms. Preston;

I am writing to ask that all non-profit organizations be treated equally in the IRS Code. Churches now receive privileged treatment by being exempted from the disclosure requirements of all other 501(c)(3) groups.

There should be no favoritism in disclosure requirements. Taxpayers are subsidizing tax-exempt groups and have a right to know the general financial disclosures of all organizations receiving this coveted benefit.

That churches are given a favored status and not required to have the same accountability of other non-religious groups is unfair.

In a lifetime of church involvement, and now non-religious, lack of accountability was one of the reasons I separated myself from religion. In at least one church I attended funds were casually spent by a leader with very little input from an 'advisory' board (with no veto power); we discovered years later that the leader had never finished the paperwork for actual 501(c)(3) status. In fact, he boasted that he took in over a million dollars in his organization over one year in our small community; this with no accountability. This is not uncommon. That the IRS allows this without questioning allows citizens to be taken advantage of with no recourse. This should not happen. Any churches who are legitimate should be glad to have all churches held to the same standard as all non-profits.

Thank you for requiring churches to show that they are accountable under the IRS code.

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