From: Ken Veto
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: IRS Form 990
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015 1:00:38 PM

I am the president of our community water association. It is a 501c(3) corporation that serves 10 families that share water from two private wells in the community. We collect a water usage fee each month from every household to pay for pump electricity and maintenance on the wells. This money is deposited in a savings account which I draw out of to pay bills. I have to fill out a form 1120H every year in order to justify not paying income tax on the interest in the savings account (about $14.00 last year)

The IRS, however, gives a broad exemption granted to churches. Churches and religious organizations currently do not even have to send a notice to the IRS that they are claiming a 990 filing exemption! Any group that claims it is religious avoids all public transparency and accountability.

This is precisely the type of lack of oversight that allows for widespread abuse, preying upon vulnerable populations, and fraud. It is time that the IRS to stop privileging churches at public expense.

All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse an 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. At a minimum, the IRS should require any organizations that claim to be religious organizations, to file an annual notice with the IRS that they are claiming tax exemption.

Best Regards,
Ken Veto

Sent from Mail for Windows 10