January 11, 2011

Dear Idaho Tax Practitioner,

As the IRS Stakeholder Liaison (SL) Area Manager for Idaho, I want to thank you for your past support and ask for your continued partnership with me and your local Stakeholder Liaisons. We are proud to be in our sixth year as the practitioners' gateway to the IRS. We have had a busy year, holding practitioner events, conducting National Phone Forums and webinars, and establishing Web-based tax centers.

Practitioners provided our local SLs many suggestions on how to improve IRS systems. This partnership strengthens our mutual commitment to ensuring taxpayer compliance with federal tax responsibilities. SL is committed to getting you the information you need. Although we do not answer tax law questions or have access to your clients' tax accounts, we can steer you in the right direction.

How SL can help you navigate the IRS

I encourage you to use our free products, as this is the best way to stay up to date with what is happening at the IRS. For instance subscribe to e-News for Tax Professionals for weekly news briefs, and check out Key Messages for Tax Professionals, which is updated on a quarterly basis. We also offer practitioner "tax centers", "IRS Tax Calendar widget" and other "widgets" that link from your organization's Web site to ours, making it easy to find frequently-used Web pages.

You may also join our free, educational National Phone Forums and Webinars from the convenience of your office, and check out IRS Live where tax professionals are encouraged to watch the free live webinar and submit questions by e-mail during the webinar. Our new IRS Video Portal is a great resource as well to view video clips of tax topics, archived versions of live panel discussions and webinars, as well as audio archives of national phone forums.

And be assured that IRS.gov has more than just forms and publications. You will find the latest news, online tools, research services, guidance and contact information. IRS en Español, the IRS.gov Spanish counterpart, is available for translated information.

How to keep up-to-date with the New Return Preparer Regulations

IRS has a new Return Preparer Office which will be led by David R. Williams. This office is responsible for implementing the new requirements. Read New Tax Preparer Requirements - Overview to keep current on the implementation of the three phases. For information on Phase 1: Apply for or renew your PTIN; check out our Web page for New PTIN Requirements for Tax Return Preparers. We have a Web page with answers to New Requirements for Tax Return Preparers: Frequently Asked Questions. For additional PTIN information, contact the IRS Tax Professional PTIN Information Line at 877-813-PTIN (7846); Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. -5 p.m. (CST).

Check out Many Tax Return Preparers Required to Use IRS e-file Beginning in 2011 for information on the new e-file rules and learn how to become an authorized e-file provider.

How you can help your clients and colleagues
We introduced the Issue Management Resolution System four years ago and have had more than a thousand IMRS issues submitted. Use IMRS to let us know when you have identified a problem or simply have a suggestion to improve our processes. Some of the successes are available in our IMRS report on IRS.gov.

Help us find ways to further our partnership and work with us to reach more practitioners through joint events or webinars. We invite you to include IRS information in your newsletter and Web site, post a tax center on your Web site or volunteer to teach a Small Business Tax Workshop in your community. Share what you learn with your colleagues.

Lastly stay in touch with your local SL. If you need assistance in Idaho, contact the Stakeholder Liaison employee below.

Kim Boyack
Phone: 208-387-2829 ext 331
Fax: 208-387-2852
Email: kim.boyack@irs.gov

If you prefer, you may also contact me, Kristen Hoiby, Northwest Area Manager for Stakeholder Liaison, at 206-220-5659 or kristen.a.hoiby@irs.gov.

Filing season can be a challenging and stressful time. Together, we can make it easier. Use our free tools, products, and services, and raise your issues and concerns through your local Stakeholder Liaison.

Sincerely,

Kristen Hoiby

Kristen Hoiby
Stakeholder Liaison Area Manager, Northwest Area
kristen.a.hoiby@irs.gov

IRS Contact List for Practitioners

NOTE: Local Time – Alaska (AK) and Hawaii (HI) follow Pacific Time (PT)

Title	Telephone Number	Hours of Operation
Practitioner Priority Service	866-860-4259	M-F, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., local time
IRS Tax Professional PTIN Information Line	877-613-7846	M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., CT
IRS Tax Help Line for Individuals	800-829-1040	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
Business and Specialty Tax Line	800-829-4933	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
e-Help Desk (IRS Electronic Products)	866-255-0654	M-F, 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. CT (non-peak) Check out peak hours.
Refund Hotline	800-829-1954	Automated Service available 24/7
Federal Management Service – FMS – Treasury Refund Offset Information	800-304-3107	M-F, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., CT
Forms and Publications	800-829-3676	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
National Taxpayer Advocate's Help Line	877-777-4778	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
Local Taxpayer Advocate – Idaho	208-387-2827	M-F, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., local time
Centralized Lien Payoff	800-913-6050	M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., local time
Centralized Bankruptcy	800-913-9358	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. ET
Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)	800-829-4059	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) – for Businesses	800-555-4477	Automated Service and Live Assistance available 24/7
Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) – for Individuals	800-316-6541	Automated Service and Live Assistance available 24/7
Government Entities (TEGE) Help Line	877-829-5500	M-F, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CT
Forms 706 and 709 Help Line	866-699-4083	M-F, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., local time
Automated Collection System (ACS) (Business)	800-829-3903	M-F, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., local time
Automated Collection System (ACS) (Individual)	800-829-7650	M-F, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., local time
Tax Fraud Referral Hotline	800-829-0433	Automated Service available 24/7
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	800-829-4933	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time
Excise Tax and Form 2290 Help Line	866-699-4096	M-F, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET
Identity Protection Specialized Unit	**800-908-4490**	M-F, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., local time
Information Return Reporting	866-455-7438	M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET
ITIN Program Office (Form W-7 and Acceptance Agent Program – Form 13551)	404-338-8963	Message Line: 24/7 hour operation
IRS Federally Declared Disaster or Combat Zone Inquiries Hotline	866-562-5227	M-F, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., local time

Getting Ready for the 2011 Tax Filing Season

Communications

Tax Information for Tax Professionals – Information Center for tax professionals.
Follow us on Twitter!
Follow the Nationwide Tax Forums on Facebook!
Check out IRS on YouTube
IRS e-News for Tax Professionals: Subscribe to the IRS e-newsletter for tax pros
IRS Video Portal - Find video clips of tax topics, archived versions of live panel discussions and webinars, as well as audio archives of national phone forums.
Outreach Corner – Subscribe to have access to ready-to-use articles, widgets, audio/video materials, and publications/flyers for you to use.
IRS Tax Calendar Widget – Click on the "install" button to add the IRS Tax Calendar widget to your desktop and/or web site.
QuickAlerts "More" e-file Benefits for Tax Professionals – Subscribe to receive "up-to-the-minute" information on e-file events.

Contacting Us

Your local Stakeholder Liaison office establishes relationships with organizations representing small business and self-employed taxpayers. They provide information about the policies, practices and procedures the IRS uses to ensure compliance with the tax laws. To establish a relationship with us, use this list to find a contact in your state.

Tools for You

Want to find the pages your need on IRS.gov more easily? Basic Tools for Tax Professionals has a comprehensive list of what you need to help prepare your clients' tax returns and information on representation. Electronic IRS Online Tools will help you and your clients conduct business quickly and safely – electronically.

Help Us Resolve Problems

With your help, we have identified hundreds of large and small issues that were getting in the way of efficient tax administration. Continue to contact us when you or your clients notice something isn't working. The Issue Management Resolution System gets to the bottom of the problem. Check out some of the issues practitioners have raised, what we've done to resolve them and what we are currently working on.

Want quick access to more information? Click on the links below.

Appeals Affordable Care Act ARRA Information Center Disasters E-file Electronic Payments Enrolled Agents E-services	Forms and Publications Help HIRE Act IMRS Hot Issues IRS.gov in Spanish News and Events Phishing and e-mail Scams	PTIN Requirements Practitioner - MeF Quick Alerts Reporting Fraud Small Business/Self Employed Tax Center Standards of Practice Subscription Services Tax Centers	Return Preparer Regulations Taxpayer Advocate Tax Professionals IRS Video Portal The Tax Gap Where To File 1040 Central 1040 MeF Program