From: Jim Walsh Jr
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Form 990 & unfair IRS practices
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 3:49:52 PM

Dear Ms. Preston

I feel strongly that the time has come for the IRS to change practices and policies which, rightfully, inspect and verify certain organizations but leave open a window of oversight on potentially nefarious individuals and groups who too easily claim *religious* exemptions while at the same time prey upon some of our most vulnerable citizens, particularly the sick and elderly.

I remember as a young man watching Red Foxx in an episode of Sanford and Sons when he plans on starting a church to avoid paying taxes. It was funny in the 70's, on television, when I assumed it wasn't reality. Unfortunately in 2015 it is all too real! There are quite a few charlatans out there and it is time the government steps in and protects it's citizens! I am unsure what standard needs to be created to filter out the harmful *religious* individuals/organizations from the rest but this complete capitulation of any governmental accountability and responsibility in this matter must come to an end!

I can only trust that you and others in positions of power like you will listen to our, the general public's, concern. We, the public, can't police this with out your help.

It would please myself and other fair minded, reasonable Americans, if you would contemplate the below changes.

1. All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse an atheist 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.
2. 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.

I very much appreciate any help you can provide in this troubling matter.

Sincerely,

James Walsh Jr Director

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