From: Tina Johnson
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Comment Request for form 990
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 3:28:40 PM

Ms. Preston

I am writing as a concerned citizen who has spent a lifetime watching my government, through the IRS, show favouritism to churches. This equates to government promotion of religion and as an atheist I do not wish to subsidize religion in any way through my government. Today more than ever there are mega churches making millions of tax free dollars while their leaders are living in mansions and flying personal jets. The latest estimate has American tax payers losing 98 billion per year in tax revenue through churches. Why do we assume that 98 billion is going to charity without any oversight?

This is also not fair to all of the secular non-profits who actually do good through charity. 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. Please make churches conform to the same IRS requirements as all other 501(c)(3) groups.

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