From:	Sandy & Bill Chockla
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Please stop favoring churches over other non-profits
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 8:39:26 PM

Hello,

- 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. 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.

The sad fact is, many organizations abuse this claim. For example, I live in Estes Park Colorado. Beyond any stretch of imagination or doubt the local YMCA is a for profit business. One of the most profitable in the valley. Because they claim to be a religious organization, they pay no taxes. This is just flat out wrong. We are not a christian nation. The founding fathers included the First Amendment and Article VI for many valid reasons. It is time we treat all organizations equally. Either tax them all or tax none. Of course to tax none makes little sense. Our crumbling infrastructure is one major example of where these funds would make a HUGE difference.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.
Bill Chockla
Estes Park, CO