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REFUNDS AVAILABLE TO TAXPAYERS

The Telephone Excise Tax Refund (TETR) is a one-time payment available on your 2006 federal income tax return. It is designed to refund previously collected long distance telephone taxes, originally levied in 1898 to help fund the Spanish-American war. Individuals, businesses and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to request it.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced on May 25, 2006, in response to certain federal court orders, that it would stop collecting the tax. Taxpayers can choose between receiving a standard refund amount or, in the alternative, filing a Form 8913 with their tax return, if supporting payment records exist that will allow the individual to receive a refund of actual taxes paid. If the standard refund option is selected, the taxpayer elects this by filling out one more line on their regular tax return, and the refund received is \$60 per family or \$30 for a single tax payer.

According to the IRS, the easiest way for taxpayers to get their money back is to use the standard amounts. In a recent press release, IRS Commissioner Mark Everson said "we believe the standard amounts are both reasonable and fair." Electing the standard amount avoids the taxpayer's responsibility of having to go through 41 months worth of telephone bills to determine exactly how much was paid out. The refund is available for long distance taxes billed after February 28, 2003, and before August 1, 2006.

For the taxpayers that do not file an income tax return, there is a new form labeled 1040EZ-T that can be used to obtain the refund owed to you.

You may contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or visit the IRS' website at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164032,00.html> to learn more about the TETR.

The OCA is an independent state agency representing the interests of New Hampshire's residential utility ratepayers.

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