

Congressman Rothman Applauds Decision by Obama Administration to End Private Tax Collection

Result
Follows Rothman's Two-Year Effort to Stop Wasteful Program

(Washington, DC)
— Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — Fair Lawn), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, applauded the decision by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to end the practice of the Internal Revenue Service's use of private debt collection agencies. In 2006, Congressman Rothman sponsored a House-passed amendment to stop the IRS from spending any money on implementing its outsourcing program.

"The announcement today that the IRS will end the indefensible waste of taxpayer money is long overdue. When the Bush Administration decided to outsource the collection of unpaid federal taxes, instead of having the work done better and cheaper by IRS employees, I immediately began the effort to stop this irresponsible practice," said Rothman. "Not only did the privatization of tax collection cost the government more than using in-house federal workers, it posed unacceptable invasion of privacy risks for American taxpayers."

Since the program of the IRS using private tax collectors was first proposed of the Bush Administration, it has been criticized as a waste of taxpayer dollars, as having the potential for abusive treatment of taxpayers and as a serious risk to taxpayers' personal and sensitive information.

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