



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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April 14, 2015

Re: H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015

Dear Members of Congress:

I write to urge you to oppose H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015, which the House will consider tomorrow, April 15, 2015. Our members, who manage the nation's mail system, oppose H.R. 1563 because it is unwarranted, counterproductive, and costly.

At its core, the measure would require the federal government to fire federal and postal employees who have an outstanding tax lien. Furthermore, it would amend federal law to make individuals with any federal tax liability ineligible for federal employment.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Every person, and particularly every federal and postal employee, has a patriotic duty to pay their taxes in full and on time. The Postal Service is one of the nation's largest employers of veterans, and postal employees do not need to be reminded of this duty, especially on Tax Day.

The tax delinquency rate for federal employees is less than half that of the general public and lower than the delinquency rate for the House of Representatives. In 2013, the tax delinquency rate for the general public was 8.7%, and the delinquency rate for House Members and staff was 5.04% in 2014. Yet, the tax delinquency rate for federal workers in 2014 was only 3.12%. It is also important to note that Congress shielded its members from these requirements, despite being the "employees" every American elects to represent them at the "federal" level.

The Internal Revenue Service already has effective methods in place to recover unpaid taxes from federal employees. For example, through the Federal Payment Levy Program, the IRS can impose a continuous levy on federal salaries and annuities up to 15%, and additional levies are available if appropriate. The IRS has confirmed that it does not have a problem collecting delinquent taxes from federal employees. Furthermore, by firing federal employees and eliminating their income, it increases the burden on the IRS to collect unpaid taxes, as without an income to levy it makes it unnecessarily difficult to collect the unpaid debt.

The Congressional Budget Office has concluded that it would have a net cost for implementation, while the Joint Committee on Taxation has found that it would have a "negligible impact" on revenue.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on H.R. 1563.

Sincerely, yours,

Louis M. Atkins

Louis M. Atkins
President, National Association of Postal Supervisors