



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus Regarding the National Taxpayer Advocate's Report to Congress

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Today, U.S. Senator Max Baucus issued the following statement regarding the National Taxpayer Advocate's Report to Congress. The National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, heads the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). TAS is responsible for representing taxpayers whose tax issues have not been resolved by other channels within the IRS. The law requires the National Taxpayer Advocate to report annually to Congress on systemic problems encountered by taxpayers in their dealings with the IRS.

"I applaud the National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, for her report. Her report demonstrates the attitude and approach Congress expects from the IRS. The IRS can provide quality taxpayer service and balanced tax law enforcement by using research more effectively and working with taxpayers to help them resolve their disputes.

"I welcome the Taxpayer Advocate's recommendations to tackle the \$311 billion tax gap. Last July, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on this important issue. The tax gap isn't going to take care of itself. We have to start doing something if we want to eliminate the tax gap. The staggering loss due to noncompliance is a clear indication that the IRS needs to provide meaningful solutions. The taxpayer advocate's report appears to provide a roadmap for the IRS to shrink the tax gap."

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