



April 18, 2016

Washington, D.C. – As Americans across the country face their tax filing deadline today, they should take comfort in knowing that Senator Rob Portman once again introduced legislation that will protect their rights against IRS overreach and inappropriate examination practices.

The Coalition for Effective & Efficient Tax Administration (CEETA) hails Sen. Portman’s efforts to protect taxpayer rights across a broad spectrum of aggressive IRS audit practices.

Sen. Portman’s bill would curb the IRS’s coercion of taxpayers into continuing an audit without end, often for a decade or longer, using tactics that block taxpayers from any hope of resolution short of going to court.

Sen. Portman’s bill would prevent the IRS from denying taxpayers a hearing before the impartial and independent IRS Appeals Office -- an office that has existed since 1927 and was created to foster settlement of disputes, avoiding needless litigation for both taxpayers and the IRS. A taxpayer’s right to this fair and impartial hearing was reaffirmed by Congress as recently as 1998. Today’s bill ends the IRS’s ability to override Congress’s intent to protect American taxpayers.

Without any Congressional authority, the IRS granted itself the sole right to decide whether a taxpayer will be forced into a courtroom to settle a tax dispute, rather than allow them access to the IRS Appeals Office. Sen. Portman’s bill would allow the IRS the power to deny a taxpayer an appeal only when the case involves an abusive tax shelter.

Sen. Portman’s bill would end the current IRS practice of “farming out” audits of American taxpayers to outside private law firms, often at a cost to the American public of over \$1,000 an hour.

This legislation follows in the wake of Sen. Portman’s successful enactment last year of his Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act, the Preventing Targeting at the IRS Act, and the Fair Treatment for All Gifts Act. With today’s bill, Sen. Portman demonstrates once again that the interests of the American taxpayer are at the forefront of his legislative focus.

CEETA’s mission is to promote constructive administrative changes and legislative solutions to the inefficiencies and excesses of IRS audits. CEETA comprises 14 trade associations and



taxpayer groups, representing a broad cross section of industries and publicly and privately owned companies.

A detailed description of CEETA's membership and policy positions can be found at <http://eetax.org>.

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