

January 27, 2023

The Honorable Senator Ann H. Rest, Chair
Senate Taxes Committee
Minnesota State Senate
328 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: *Department of Revenue Free Filing Report*
SF 497, HF 705

Dear Senator Rest:

I am writing this letter in support of *Department of Revenue Free Filing Report* (SF 497, HF 705). I currently serve as the Director of Tax and Revenue Administration for the Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA). Prior to joining the FTA, I spent 15 years with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. While serving as Assistant Commissioner with the Department I worked in partnership with Representative Youakim on this legislation.

Providing the appropriate free file solutions for the taxpayers of Minnesota is an important undertaking. The benefits include reduced costs for taxpayers in both time and money, increased compliance, and fostering a positive relationship between taxpayers and the Department of Revenue. However, to do this right, it takes a joint effort by all the stakeholders who play a role in tax administration.

While I've been away from the Department for five years, I have continued to be nationally engaged in tax administration and electronic filing. My combined experience leads me to the conclusion, now more than ever, that this bill is needed and that its passage will have a profound impact on the future of tax administration and taxpayer experience. This legislation is written in a way that empowers collaboration across the tax ecosystem, providing the framework to evaluate the current electronic filing landscape and identify a solution for Minnesota that will facilitate taxpayer compliance and allows Minnesotans timely access to the tax benefits they are entitled to.

I strongly support this bill and think it is an opportunity for the State of Minnesota to be a leader in electronic tax administration.

Sincerely,

Terri Steenblock