

STEFFEN GROUP

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Oregon's Tax Amnesty Ends Soon

Applications must be filed by Thursday, November 19th.

If you watch television, you've probably seen the commercials for Oregon's Tax Amnesty Program. The woman who has painted herself into a corner, and the man digging himself a deeper hole will only be around a few more days. The program ends in November.

The 2009 Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 880 creating a Tax Amnesty Program for Oregon taxpayers. The Oregon Department of Revenue sent out approximately 40,000 letters to individuals and other entities, about half of which were sent to individuals and corporations that they believe should have filed Oregon returns for prior years. DOR also created a web site with information about the program which is found at www.oregontaxamnesty.com.

Here is how the program works:

Anyone who underreported (or didn't report at all) corporate income or excise taxes, personal income taxes, inheritance tax, trust and estate tax, or transit district (self employment only) taxes for **tax years 2007 and before** (for inheritance tax: the date of death must be before

April 1, 2007) **may come forward and report** any unpaid tax during the amnesty period. If they do so, and **have not received a notice of deficiency** or been **assessed tax** for the year in question, they will receive a **waiver of all penalties and 50% of the interest otherwise due.**

Those wishing to participate must file an amnesty application.

Participants must file original or amended returns for all years in which they have underreported tax no later than January 19, 2010 in order to be eligible for amnesty.

Participants waive their right to appeal or request future refunds of any amounts reported on an amnesty amended or original tax return.

Taxpayers that **could have** filed an original or amended return reporting an additional tax liability under amnesty, **but failed to do so**, will be subject to an **additional 25% penalty** on any amount of unpaid tax after amnesty is over.



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QuickBooks Alert!



The team at QuickBooks recently fixed a security vulnerability. Now, QuickBooks users need to protect their data by downloading the most recent update.

Registered owners of QuickBooks 2007, 2008, and 2009 probably already received their notification directly from Intuit. But if you did not register your software - this may be the first you've heard about the security problem.

The issue was **related to the use of ActiveX technology**, a distributed object system and protocol technology developed by Microsoft. If exploited, this vulnerability could allow a hacker to access the data on the user's computer.

Affected versions are the Windows desktop versions of Intuit® Quickbooks® 2007 through 2009 Simple Start, Pro, Premier and Enterprise Solutions 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0.

We encourage all of our clients to **download the free update** and keep their QuickBooks updated with the most current release.

Contact us if you have any questions. We're ready to help.

International Treaties Affect Economies

Over the last decade, the mantra of Man-Made-Climate-Change has begun to wear thin, even in the socialist West where the idea was born.

Maybe people have finally heard the counter arguments. Maybe the announcement that methane from cows releases more greenhouse gasses than industry has finally helped people realize that the emperor has no clothes.

Either way, the true believers will continue to push their agenda on an international community that just doesn't buy it.

[Investor's Business Daily](#)

10/23/2009 06:44 PM ET

"With less than two months to go before the big Copenhagen Conference on global warming, two major nations have said 'no thanks' to the no-growth agenda. For that reason alone, so should we.

Following a deal signed late Thursday [Oct 22nd] between China and India... The two mega-nations, which together account for nearly a third of the world's population, said they won't go along with a new climate treaty being drafted in Copenhagen to replace the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012.

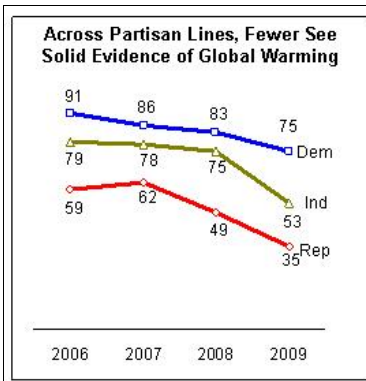
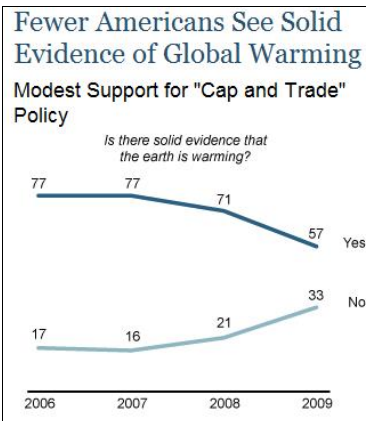
They're basically saying no to anything that forces them to impose mandatory limits on their output of greenhouse gas emissions.

Other developing nations, including Mexico, Brazil and South Africa, will likely reject any proposals as well.

The deal was already in trouble. Three weeks ago, the Group of 77 developing nations met in Thailand to discuss what they wanted to do about global warming. Their answer: nothing.

William Hawkins, writing in the American Thinker, quotes a piece in China's Science Times journal that sums up how China -- and other developing nations -- feel: **'Why do the developed countries put an arguable scientific problem on the international negotiations table?'** the article's author, Wang Jin, asks. 'The real intention is not for the global temperature increase, but for the restriction of the economic development of the developing countries.'

They see clearly what the rest of us seem to miss -- that, for all its bad science, the Copenhagen Conference is about the world's Lilliputians tying down its Gullivers, not about global warming at all."



Source: the [Pew Research poll](#) on global warming - released earlier this month.

News on Tax Breaks:

Effective October 1st the IRS has increased their per diem allowances for travel. The base rate for meals is now \$65 a day in high-cost areas and \$52 elsewhere.

Self-employed people, travelling for business are allowed to use these rates instead of keeping receipts (lodging expenses however, must still be substantiated separately). They cannot use the \$268/\$163 per diems that larger companies are allowed to use when reimbursing their employees.

Holding the Line

Due to low inflation rates in 2008-2009, several indexed tax amounts will **NOT** increase for 2010.

For instance, the social security wage base remains at \$106,800 and the rate withheld on payrolls also remains at 7.65%.

Even though Social Security benefits will not get a cost of living increase, the Congress is planning to ease financial stress by making a \$250 payment to Social Security recipients.

Hang on to your Refinancing Papers

The IRS warns of more audits on Mortgage Interest Deductions.

If you have refinanced your mortgage our office may need more information to calculate your allowable deductions; so hang onto those financing papers!

Community Involvement:



Jon and the other players at this month's golf fundraiser for St. Joseph's Shelter

Helping to improve our community has always been a part of our vision.

Now that Jon has joined the team, we're already participating in more community events.

This month Jon joined other golfers in raising \$29,000 for St. Joseph's Shelter.



Most of our team attended Dave Ramsey's **Total Money Makeover** event in Portland last weekend.

At Steffen Group, we have been heartily recommending Dave's sound financial advice for a long time. But this was our first time to see him live in person.

Dave's presentation was fun, interactive and high-energy. We laughed out loud while we reviewed time-tested, bedrock financial principles and his seven steps to freedom.

Vote for Jon!

Jon has been nominated for election to the Silverton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. We are sure his diverse experience and conservative business philosophy can help the Chamber continue its success. So if you are a member of the SACC, please consider casting your vote for Jon.



You can listen to Dave's daily radio broadcasts each evening at **7 PM** on local talk radio station **1190 KEX**.

We are also setting up a lending library with Dave's materials here at our office.



Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own. Nobody uses somebody else's resources as carefully as he uses his own. So if you want efficiency and effectiveness, if you want knowledge to be properly utilized, you have to do it through the means of private property. [Milton Friedman](#)

One Nation Under God?

Hearing Congress sing *God Bless America* or seeing the national motto *In God We Trust* imprinted on all our money may lead a person to think the United States is a Christian nation.

But recent decades show that we the people have become increasingly estranged from the God of Teddy Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

When the Republicans ran the White House, they hosted Islamic Iftaars and Hindu Diwali celebrations there; in part to recognize the numerous hard-working Muslim and Hindu citizens living in the USA.

The difference today?

President Bush attended the National Day of Prayer (a Christian event) and not the Ramadan or Diwali events, President Obama does the opposite.

Our current President is one example of the massive shift that has occurred in our culture. Today, even college

As the ethereal sounds of a Hindu priest's chanting of this Sanskrit prayer from ancient Hindu scripture filled the East Room, President Obama lit the ceremonial White House lamp ... Never before had a sitting U.S. President personally celebrated the Diwali holiday...

Newsweek

The President's celebration of Islamic Iftaars (Ramadan feasts) complete with Muslim prayers, and now, the Hindu prayers and lighting of the Diwali Lamp, stand in stark contrast to his snub of Christian leaders and break with White House tradition on the National Day of Prayer ...

**Pierre Bynum,
Family Research Council**



Diwali candle ceremony held beneath Washington's portrait in the White House, September 25, 2009

graduates are ignorant of why the Tree of Liberty grew in the soil of a robust Christian culture.

President Obama's Middle East declaration that Americans "do not consider ourselves a Christian nation" is a repudiation not just of his political adversaries, but of current and historical facts.

These facts do not change merely by Presidential declaration.

If it has been a while, or you have never known about the Christian ethics that gave us limited government, separation of powers and freedom of religion then we invite you to read [David Barton's very good thirteen page article](#) on the subject (it also has, three additional pages of citations and footnotes).

It is posted on our website too.

Feel free to disagree with us! Your freedoms of conscience and speech were protected in our Bill of Rights because our founders agreed with Jesus, when he told his opponents: **Caesar does not rule everything.**

(c.f. [Luke 20:20-25](#))

Guess how many of the 50 state constitutions refer to the Creator God of Christianity?

All men shall be secure in the Natural right, to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

**Oregon Constitution
Article 1: Section 2**

We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land...

We, the people of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution.

We, the People of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom...

We, the people of the State of Idaho, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom...

We the people of the State of Nevada Grateful to Almighty God for our freedom ...

We, the people of Colorado, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe...

List the names for God from these 50 public documents and add to them other statements such as this:

Religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and, therefore, all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.

Taken together, this and more evidence is clear, the Almighty God Americans claim on our money and in our oaths is the Creator of the Bible, not the impersonal energy of Buddhism, the multitude of Hindu gods or Gaia the Earth mother.