IRS OVERSIGHT BOARD

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For immediate release
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Tax Community Reports IRS Problems at Oversight Board Meeting

(Washington, DC) "The IRS must improve its ability to implement change," stated IRS Oversight Board Chairman Larry R. Levitan, following a half-day public meeting on January 29th, in which the Board heard form 15 organizations representing a broad range of taxpayers' interests.

"A consistent theme throughout the statements of these taxpayers' organizations is that the IRS' plans and intentions to improve service are good, but its efforts to implement them are often inconsistent or poorly communicated," Chairman Levitan said.

The purpose of the meeting was to give the Board an appreciation of the issues of tax administration from the perspective of those who work with the IRS.

At the meeting, the Board also formally released its annual report. In the report, the Board noted that while significant improvements have been made, the IRS is still not effectively and efficiently serving the needs of taxpayers.

"While the IRS has made progress, it still has a long way to go to serve taxpayers the way Congress envisioned," the Chairman concluded.

At its January 30th meeting, the Board heard presentations on:

- IRS FY2004 strategic planning and budget, led by Todd Grams, IRS Chief Financial Officer

- The 2001 filing season, led John Dalrymple, IRS Commissioner, Wage & Investment Operating Division

- Technology modernization, led by John Reece, IRS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Information Officer

- Compliance issues, including K-1 matching, by Joseph Brinacombe, Acting IRS Deputy Director, Compliance Policy, Small Business/Self-Employed Operating Division

The next IRS Oversight Board meeting will be held April 2-3, 2002, in Washington, DC.

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For a copy of the IRS Oversight Board Annual Report, contact Theresa Copeland at Theresa.copeland@do.treas.gov. Report is available in PDF format. Media, please contact Joelle Jordan at joellejordancomm@home.com or 202-622-9931.