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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORRECTION TO INITIAL PRESS RELEASE

ANCHORAGE MAN CONVICTED OF TAX EVASION

On Friday, June 25, after five days of trial and two hours of deliberation, John Thomas Harpole, 53, of Anchorage, was convicted by a federal jury in Anchorage of tax evasion and failure to file income tax returns for the years 1997-2002.

Harpole, currently employed by British Petroleum and previously employed by Veco, failed to file returns for each of the tax years in question, and also affirmatively evaded his taxes by filing false Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificates, Forms W-4, which falsely claimed that he was exempt from income tax withholding. The evidence also showed that Harpole filed other false documents with the IRS, claiming to be a "nontaxpayer."

United States District Judge James K. Singleton set Harpole's sentencing for September 17. The defendant faces up to five years in federal prison on each of the six evasion counts, and one year on each failure-to-file count. He was convicted of 12 counts.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division and prosecuted by the Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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