Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 8904
Bloomington, IL 61702-9960

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

IRS e-file

CLICK. ZIP. FAST ROUND TRIP.

Important Tax Information Enclosed
Do Not Throw Away!

Bulk Rate
Postage and Fees Paid
Internal Revenue Service
Permit No. G-48

IRS e-file Customer Number (ECN) Pilot Program

Filing your taxes just got easier! Since our records show that you prepared your 1998 income tax return using a computer, you have been selected to participate in an IRS ECN pilot program for completely paperless returns. Read on to learn how to use your electronic signature (shown below) to file a completely paperless 1999 return.

If yours is the first or only name in the address, your *e-file* Customer Number (ECN) is

If yours is the second name in the address, your ECN is

Your ECN is your "electronic signature" to be used when filing your 1999 federal income tax return electronically as described in this postcard. A joint return must include an ECN for both filers. **If you lose your ECN, we cannot replace or issue you a new one during this pilot program!** This eliminates the requirement to send the paper signature document (Form 8453-OL) and the accompanying W-2, W-2G and/or 1099-R documents to the IRS.
NOTE: If you are required to file paper forms other than 8453-OL, W-2, W-2G and/or 1099-R you are not eligible for the ECN pilot.

Not eligible for the ECN pilot? Learn how to find out about other e-file options inside!

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DEAR TAXPAYER,

The remarkable benefits of IRS *e-file* are:

- Faster refunds—in half the usual time.
- More accurate than a paper return.
- Quick proof within 48 hours from the IRS of return acceptance.
- The opportunity to "file now...pay later." *e-file* in January, choose to pay electronically on a date you designate.

Are you eligible to participate in a new IRS *e-file* program that allows you to file a completely paperless electronic return? All you need to file a completely paperless return is a computer with a modem and approved tax preparation software. Software can be purchased at local computer software retailers or accessed from various on-line filing companies' Internet websites. The tax preparation software will guide you through the simple requirements* to determine if you can use your *e-file* Customer Number(s) (ECN) printed on the other side as your "electronic signature" instead of mailing us your signature on Form 8453-OL.

Information on the pilot is available on the IRS' Digital Daily website in the "Electronic Services" area at **http://www.irs.gov.** A link in the Digital Daily website provides questions and answers about the *e-file* Customer Number pilot, including a list of the software companies supporting the pilot. On-line software developers have a variety of cost structures for their tax preparation software and/or transmission of your return. Some products can be accessed free of charge from the provider's website and there may be a small transmission fee. Other products purchased from software retailers may have a cost that includes free transmission of the electronic return. Taxpayers interested in using tax preparation software should comparison shop to find the best fit for their situation.

The IRS is committed to protecting your privacy. Please be assured that all transmitters have agreed to meet necessary safeguards to protect your privacy.

Thank you for considering this exciting new program. Additional information can be obtained by calling our toll free number at 1-800-829-1040. Other IRS *e-file* options are available if you cannot participate in the ECN pilot program. For more details on IRS *e-file*, use TeleTax topic 252, which is available on our website or by calling 1-800-829-4477. If you would like to receive a tax package, see the information below.

Charles O. Rossotti

Charles O. Rossotti
Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service

IRS
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov
Form 8160E (Rev.10-1999)
Catalog Number 26124L

*SIMPLE REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECN PILOT PROGRAM

Your return should be completed without the use of a paid preparer and require no attachments to Form 8453-OL other than Forms W-2, W-2G, and/or 1099-R. An 8453-OL is the signature document normally used for electronically filed returns, which is eliminated by the use of the ECN. The software will prompt you to enter the information from these paper documents as part of your electronic return. There is no need to mail the IRS any documents!

HOW TO GET TAX FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Tax packages, forms, instructions, and other information are available on **http://www.irs.gov.** Select the "Forms and Pubs" option and follow the directions. Forms and instructions can also be faxed to you by calling 1-703-368-9694 **[from a telephone directly connected to a fax machine.]**

If you want us to mail you a tax package, detach the business reply mail postcard below and mail it as soon as possible. No postage is required. If your address on the back of the postcard is not correct, use dark ink to make the necessary changes and cross out both bar codes that are located on the back of the card.

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