

**Association of Public Treasurers
Government Finance Officers Association
International City/County Management Association
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Treasurers' Association of Virginia**

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Jim Moran
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

On behalf of our tens of thousands of members, we wish to thank you for introducing the *Federal Offset Program for Local Governments Act*. This legislation would allow certain types of delinquent local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds. Providing local governments with access to these necessary and owed funds is important both in principle and for budgetary purposes.

Our organizations strongly support the *Federal Offset Program for Local Governments Act* and for many years have been calling for the expansion of the Federal Offset Program. The program was created to help states secure child support arrearages and was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. By expanding the program to include local government tax debts, thousands of cities, counties and town across the country would be able to retrieve hundreds of millions of dollars of lost revenues which are particularly needed during this economic downturn. Furthermore, as you noted, this legislation will also help protect honest taxpayers from having to pay for those who are evading payment of their outstanding tax obligations.

This legislation is an example of how federal, state and local governments can work well together. There are limited costs to the federal government associated with the bill, as states and the federal government would be compensated by the local government for the administrative burden. Furthermore, it assists efforts to close the "tax gap" for local governments.

We can not thank you enough for introducing this legislation and for your continued support to the local government community.

Sincerely,

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