



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bloomington man charged with tax crimes

Saint Paul—The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Hennepin County Attorney's Office recently charged Paul Howard Tollefson, 61, of Bloomington, with twelve tax crimes. Those include six felony and six gross misdemeanor counts of failing to file tax returns and pay taxes for the 2005-2010 tax years. The criminal complaint identified Tollefson as president and shareholder of Petroleum Equipment Sales & Installation Inc., which he operates out of his home.

According to the criminal complaint, Tollefson hasn't paid any state taxes during the years cited in the complaint, even though department investigators estimated that he earned hundreds of thousands of dollars during that time. The complaint said Tollefson made more than \$3.2 million in bank deposits for the 2002-2009 tax years, and that he withdrew tens of thousands of dollars from his bank account to pay down his home mortgage and a home equity line of credit. Also cited were numerous ATM withdrawals, including withdrawals at such places as Grand Casino Hinckley and Stateline, Nevada, on the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

"Tollefson willfully failed to comply with his state tax obligations," the complaint said. "Instead he voluntarily chose to pursue a comfortable lifestyle while electing to evade his state tax obligations."

The complaint cited numerous efforts by the department to contact Tollefson concerning his failure to file his returns and pay his taxes, and his unfulfilled promises to comply with the law.

Each felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$10,000 fine, or both. Each gross misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$3,000 fine.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects an individual or business is violating tax laws, at (651) 297-5195 or 1-800-657-3500. Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Last year, citizen tips resulted in 75 percent of the department's criminal case referrals.

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While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes progressive enforcement action against non-compliant taxpayers ensuring tax laws are fairly administered, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe.

Learn how the Minnesota Department of Revenue is working to stop tax evasion on recreational vehicles [here](#).

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