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Subject: News release: Taxpayers warning

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Taxation and Revenue urges taxpayer caution

Fraudulent letters threaten seizure of properties with tax debt

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department is warning taxpayers about fraudulent demand letters going out to property owners who are delinquent on their taxes.

The letters tell the owners to call a 1-800 number by a certain date or the state will seize their property. Letters have been sent to property owners in Valencia County and possibly elsewhere.

The letters are not from the state Taxation and Revenue Department.

Anyone with an outstanding property tax debt should work directly with the treasurer's office in the county where their property is located or with Taxation and Revenue at 505-827-0883 if the debt is three or more years past due and has been turned over to the state for collection.

The Taxation and Revenue Department does auction properties for delinquent taxes when it has been unable to collect debts owed on those properties. The department schedules at least one auction in each county annually.

Anyone who suspects they have encountered fraudulent activity can contact the Department through the Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789 or by email at Tax.Fraud@tax.nm.gov.

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The Taxation and Revenue Department serves the State of New Mexico by providing fair and efficient tax and motor vehicle services. It administers more than 35 tax programs and distributes revenue to the State and to local and tribal governments throughout New Mexico.

The Department strives to reduce taxpayer burden through clearer communication, statutes, regulations, forms, correspondence and instructions.

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