

PRESS RELEASE

NH Department of Revenue Administration
45 Chenell Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Voice 603-271-2191 - Fax (603) 271-6121 - www.state.nh.us/revenue

For more information about this press release please contact:

Margaret Fulton, Assistant Commissioner - (603) 271-2318

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Concord — September 4, 2008 — The Department of Revenue Administration (DRA)

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration Announces the Retirement of its Commissioner, G. Philip “Phil” Blatsos

A motivated, united, and directed work force was Commissioner Blatsos’ formula for the Department’s success. His work philosophy will always be, “first, last, and always, run the business.”

Under Commissioner Blatsos’ leadership and technical skills of the last five years, the DRA team:

- Tripled actual dollars received through audit and compliance, from \$15 million to over \$50 million per year, reducing the need for new state taxes.
- Extinguished any backlog of refunds, saving the State over \$700,000 in interest payments annually.
- Reduced potential legal action by actively working with municipalities to enforce the constitutional mandate to take values anew every 5 years.
- Reduced taxpayer frustration by establishing a Customer Service Bureau to timely respond to queries.
- Championed new legislation to close tax “loopholes” in key areas, including but not limited to:
 - A tighter definition of “holding company” to restrict Real Estate Transfer Tax avoidance;
 - An “economic nexus” statute to prevent Business Profits Tax avoidance by entities directing business activity in New Hampshire, but lacking a physical presence; and
 - A “sham transaction” statute to positively require transactions have a business purpose.
- Assisted the NH Department of Health and Human Services with prescription drug audits, which uncovered more than \$1 million in over charges to the State.

- Proactively developed innovative solutions to complex credit tax issues allowing the Research and Development Credit and Coos County Tax Credit to become law while minimizing the fiscal impact.
- Assumed the duties of auditing 911 Tax for the NH Department of Safety, and with the support of Safety and the telecommunications industry, collected fees not previously collected.
- Worked with the NH Departments of Labor, Insurance, and Employment Security, as well as the unions, to meet and stem the growing challenge of “independent contractor” status.
- Assisted the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development in their efforts to attract new business to the State through individual business development assistance, training, and forms development.

All of this was accomplished by collectively working smarter and without new positions. The Department wishes Commissioner Blatsos continued success in his future endeavors.