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JONATHAN MILLER
Secretary

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Commissioner

In the matter of:

[REDACTED]
(SS# [REDACTED])

Contact: [REDACTED]

FINAL RULING NO. 2011-09
February 4, 2011

Motor Vehicle Usage Tax Assessment

FINAL RULING

The Kentucky Department of Revenue ("Department") currently has an outstanding Motor Vehicle Usage Tax assessment against [REDACTED] totaling \$ [REDACTED] (plus applicable interest and penalties) dated [REDACTED], 2006. A breakdown of the assessment is shown in the chart below:

Purchase Date	Tax Due	Interest as of 2/4/2011	Penalty as of 2/4/2011	Total Due as of 2/4/2011
[REDACTED], 2006	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], a Kentucky resident, purchased a new motor home in Kentucky on [REDACTED], 2006. The purchase contract provided by Taxpayer reflects a purchase price in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] before any allowance for trade-in value. The vehicle was apparently registered to

██████████ in the state of Montana at the time of purchase yet ██████████ appears to have no discernible connection to that state. The Department, upon review of the transaction, determined that ██████████ possesses a valid Kentucky operator's license and therefore, is a Kentucky resident as KRS 186.010(12) states in part that:

Possession by an operator of a vehicle of a valid Kentucky operator's license shall be prima facie evidence that the operator is a resident of Kentucky.

Further, KRS 186.020(1) states in part that:

If the owner of a motor vehicle is an individual and resides in the Commonwealth, the motor vehicle shall be registered with the county clerk of the county in which he resides.

The Department therefore issued an assessment for Motor Vehicle Usage Tax to ██████████ based on the purchase price of the motor home in question and his status as a resident of the Commonwealth.

██████████, by way of counsel, ██████████, Attorney at Law, protested the assessment in a letter to the Department dated ██████████, 2010. ██████████ merely states that the protest is based on disagreement with the tax and interest and also with the value upon which the tax is based, i.e., the purchase price.

Additional information was requested by letters dated ██████████, 2010 and ██████████, 2010 with each letter, an additional thirty day extension was granted. Despite these extensions, ██████████ has failed to submit any documentation in support of his protest.

At issue is whether ██████████ has complied with the requirements of KRS 131.110(1), which states in pertinent part:

The protest shall be accompanied by a supporting statement setting forth the grounds upon which the protest is made. Upon written request, the department may extend the time for filing the supporting statement if it appears the delay is necessary and unavoidable.

The Kentucky courts have held that this statutory provision imposes upon a taxpayer protesting an assessment or a refund denial a legal duty to provide the Department with "something more substantial than mere denials of tax liability." Eagle Machine Co., Inc. v. Commonwealth ex rel. Gillis, 698 S.W.2d 528, 530 (Ky.App., 1985). In order to make a valid protest, a taxpayer must "provide financial statements, records or some other documentation that would allow the Department some basis for reconsideration." Id. at 529.

The courts have further held that KRS 131.110(1) is “mandatory in nature” and that failure to submit documentation as it requires will result in the taxpayer’s loss of the right to further review of the assessment or refund denial in question. Scotty’s Construction Co. v. Revenue Cabinet, 779 S.W.2d 234 (Ky.App., 1989). In both Scotty’s Construction and Eagle Machine, the taxpayers failed to provide any substantial information in support of their denials of tax liability, despite being given ample opportunity to do so. The same is true in this matter. Taxpayer has failed to submit any documentation that would allow the Department a basis for reconsideration of the tax liability.

Therefore, the outstanding Motor Vehicle Usage Tax assessment in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] (plus applicable interest and penalties) is deemed a legitimate liability of [REDACTED] due the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This letter is the final ruling of the Department of Revenue.

APPEAL

You may appeal this final ruling to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals pursuant to the provisions of KRS 131.110, KRS 131.340-131.365, 103 KAR 1:010 and 802 KAR 1:010. If you decide to appeal this final ruling, your petition of appeal must be filed at the principal office of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, 128 Brighton Park Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3714, within thirty (30) days from the date of this final ruling. The rules of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, which are set forth in 802 KAR 1:010, require that the petition of appeal must:

1. Be filed in quintuplicate;
2. Contain a brief statement of the law and facts in issue;
3. Contain the petitioner’s or appellant’s position as to the law and facts; and
4. Include a copy of this final ruling with each copy of the petition of appeal.

The petition of appeal must be in writing and signed by the petitioner or appellant. Filings by facsimile or other electronic means shall not be accepted.

Proceedings before the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals are conducted in accordance with 103 KAR 1:010, 802 KAR 1:010 and KRS 131.340-131.365 and KRS Chapter 13B. Formal hearings are held by the Board concerning the tax appeals before it, with all testimony and proceedings officially reported. Legal representation of parties to appeals before the Board is governed by the following rules set forth in Section 3 of 802 KAR 1:010:

1. An individual may represent himself in any proceedings before the Board where his individual tax liability is at issue or he may obtain an attorney to represent him in those proceedings;

2. An individual who is not an attorney may not represent any other individual or legal entity in any proceedings before the Board;
3. Any party appealing a final ruling to the Board other than an individual, such as a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, estate or other legal entity, shall be represented by an attorney in all proceedings before the Board, including the filing of the petition of appeal; and
4. An attorney who is not licensed to practice in Kentucky may practice before the Board only if he complies with Rule 3.030(2) of the Rules of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

You will be notified by the Clerk of the Board of the date and time set for any hearing.

Sincerely,
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET



E. Jeffrey Mosley
Interim Executive Director
Office of Legal Services for Revenue

Cc: [REDACTED], Attorney at Law

[REDACTED]