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HAITI Act Relieves Taxpayer Burden, Too

Bipartisan Legislation Expected to Be Signed by the President

WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 22, 2010—In an effort to provide the greatest amount of good for the largest number of people, the House and Senate have passed legislation that allows the taxpayer to deduct charitable contributions to aid victims of the January 12th earthquake in Haiti.

The law allows charitable contributions to Haiti relief programs, made before March 1, 2010, to be claimed as charitable donations on their 2009 tax returns. Another provision of the bill allows those who text-messaged a donation to use their phone bill notation as a receipt for that donation.

HR 4662 is identical to S. 2936, the Haiti Assistance Income Tax Incentive (HAITI)

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Act introduced by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont) and ranking member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa).

“This is inspired legislation,” said Mike Nelson, executive vice president of the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA). “We understand the president Obama will sign the legislation as soon as it is presented to him. This helps those in need and provides an immediate incentive to the American taxpayer.”

President Obama is expected to sign the legislation as soon as it reaches his desk.

“With so many changes in the tax law affecting this year’s returns,” said Sandra Martin, EA, president of NAEA, “this is one we can all embrace. It provides relief for our neighbors on that ravaged island, and it motivates the American taxpayer in a down economy.”

Enrolled agents are independent business people who are federally licensed to prepare taxes and to represent the taxpayer before the IRS.

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About NAEA

The National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA) is the professional society representing Enrolled Agents (EAs), which number in excess 40,000 nationwide. Its members are licensed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to represent taxpayers before all administrative levels of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), including examination, collection and appeals functions.

To find an enrolled agent in your area, visit the National Association of Enrolled Agents’ website at www.naea.org and click on the “Find an Enrolled Agent” link.