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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Association of Tax Professionals responds to Treasury Secretary Yellen's Free File comments

APPLETON, Wis. (June 13, 2022) In response to Treasury <u>Secretary Janet Yellen's comments</u> regarding the underutilization of the IRS Free File system by eligible taxpayers, the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) believes the fear of submitting an inaccurate self-prepared return and the potential of missing a tax benefit or credit are the primary factors for low usage.

While we support the notion that certain taxpayers should be able to meet their tax obligations in a simple and unassisted way, for most, the complication of the tax code, combined with the knowledge needed to claim tax incentives like the covid stimulus money, earned income credit and advanced child credit makes that an impossibility. We encourage the Treasury and the IRS to continue to expand the quantity, scope and availability of helpful taxpayer tools to assist them in meeting their filing obligations and maximizing their legal benefits.

NATP also believes that effective administration of the tax law in more complex situations is best accomplished through the assistance of well-educated and trained tax professionals. "Tax professionals understand the need to educate taxpayers on their tax compliance responsibilities," said Tom O'Saben, EA, NATP Director of Tax Content & Government Relations. "Having the knowledge and proper tools is critical to ensuring compliance."

We encourage the Treasury Department and Congress to continue expanding taxpayer education. We will remain committed to providing education to tax professionals so they can continue to serve taxpayers with accuracy and compliance.

To discuss this with Tom O'Saben, please contact Nancy Kasten at nkasten@natptax.com.

About NATP: The National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) is the largest association dedicated to equipping tax professionals with the resources, connections and education they need to provide their clients the highest level of service. 23,000 members rely on NATP to deliver professional connections, content expertise and advocacy that provides them with the support they need to best serve their clients. The NATP headquarters is in Appleton, WI. To learn more, visit www.natptax.com.