



From the Desk of Dean Zerbe.



Tax Notes: Steve Miller New Head of IRS LMSB

by Dean Zerbe

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“Based on my long working experience with Steve, this is good news for business.”

I am pleased to report to you the appointment of Steve Miller as the next commissioner of the IRS Large and Midsize Business Division (LMSB).

Steve Miller, formerly IRS Commissioner of Tax-Exempt and Government Entities (TE/GE), will replace Frank Ng, who will retire in June. As Commissioner of LMSB, Steve will oversee both services and enforcement affecting more than 80,000 of the nation's largest corporations and partnerships. He will also play a leading role in IRS efforts to boost international tax compliance among wealthy individuals and multinational corporations.

This is good news for taxpayers because my observation is that Steve is highly practical, believes that a key role of the IRS is to help taxpayers comply, and believes strongly in governmental transparency. As I mentioned in Tax Notes, I have worked with Steve for many years, and he is thoughtful and well respected. The Obama administration has made an excellent choice in this appointment.

As Commissioner of TE/GE, Steve led the division's exempt organization function and worked in Employee Plans and Exempt Organizations and at the Office of Chief Counsel. As I stated in Tax Notes, Steve proved extremely effective at balancing the concerns of Congress with a clear understanding of what makes sense from a taxpayer perspective. He brought a new perspective to the role that it sorely needed.

Prior to joining the IRS, Steve was at the Joint Committee on Taxation, which - those who have heard me speak will recall - is the all-important shop that does “scoring” for Congress, i.e., providing Congress with the estimates of revenue lost or gained for tax proposals, which drives so much of tax policy.

As the economy struggles, Steve's pragmatic approach will be even more important. Businesses want to comply with tax laws, while at the same time remaining viable, productive, profit-producing entities. Simply put, they're trying to survive. To accomplish this, they need an IRS that is working with them, not against them. I believe Steve recognizes this and has a great track record of accomplishing it. Again, I am delighted that we are bringing this talent and skill set to LMSB.

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