

Streamlined Sales Tax Update

What follows is a succinct update on the latest developments in the continuing saga of the telecommunications' industries efforts to simplify all local and state telecommunications taxes through the Streamlined Sales Tax Project. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions. Cheryl

SST and Telecommunications Issue

- The Telecommunications issue was pulled from the agenda at the September meeting of the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board in Oklahoma City. I believe that our meeting here in Oklahoma both with Jerry Johnston and Deborah Bierbaum contributed to the decision to pull the item.
- Consensus among the State and Local Advisory Council (SLAC) composed of NLC, US Conference of Mayors, GFOA and Assoc. of Counties is that Telecom outside of regular sales tax was not part of the original scope of the SST. The Telecom industry believes the opposite.
- The full Streamlined Sales Tax Project board plans a December meeting but the Telecommunications issue is not on the agenda.
- The SST staff is in the process of completing a questionnaire to be sent to the tax commissions in each state about how that handle telecommunications taxes and how they respond to the proposal from the industry. This questionnaire had not been sent as of my last teleconference call in late November
- The full SST board is to meet April 28-20 in Washington, D.C. with a strong possibility that the Telecom issue will be on the agenda for action.
- I have e-mailed Jerry Johnson and Tony Mastin to see if they have received the survey yet and offered to coordinate municipal input.

Vendor Compensation

- This is a hot topic at the SST now. Some states compensate vendors (like Oklahoma) and some do not. The SST goal is to have the compensation be uniform throughout the SST members and have it apply to all vendors. How the final proposal is crafted will determine the impact on Oklahoma municipalities

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