

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## REVENUE DEPARTMENT REMINDS PROPERTY OWNERS OF IMPORTANT STEP IN TAX APPEAL PROCESS

(HELENA) - The Montana Department of Revenue has an important reminder to property owners who have requested informal reviews of their property tax assessments or who have appealed to their County Tax Appeal Boards.

If the informal review or appeal is still pending when taxes become due, these property owners need to take the additional step of paying their taxes under protest before the taxes become delinquent.

"Appeals are your right as a Montana taxpayer and we want you to understand this very important step in the appeal process," said revenue director Dan Bucks.

Paying taxes under protest is required by law to protect property owners' interests in securing a tax reduction if their assessment reviews or appeals are successful. Counties will not issue refunds and accrued interest even with successful appeals of property assessments, if property owners did not pay their taxes under protest.

County treasurers across the state are sending out 2009 property tax bills. Property owners should receive their bills soon, or may already have them.

Counties may use different forms for payment under protest, so property owners will need to contact their county treasurer for information. Regardless of the form the county uses, property owners will need to specify in writing the grounds for their protests and list the amount of taxes that they are paying under protest.

If property owners have questions about their informal reviews or appeals, they can call the Department of Revenue at 1-866-859-2254 (in Helena, 444-6900). Questions about tax bills should be directed to the county treasurer's office.

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