

## December 7, 2006 2006 telephone tax refund available

For Immediate Release

Dec. 7, 2006

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Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha today announced the availability of a federal telephone excise tax credit that can be claimed when people file their returns next year for the 2006 tax year.

The telephone tax refund is a one-time payment available on 2006 federal income tax returns, designed to refund previously collected long-distance federal excise taxes. It is available to anyone who paid long-distance taxes on landline, cell phone or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service.

Anyone who paid a long-distance tax for service billed after February 28, 2003 and before August 1, 2006 is eligible to request the refund (phone companies can no longer charge the tax after August 1, 2006).

The IRS is offering a standard refund amount between \$30 and \$60, so there is no need to gather old phone bills. Taxpayers who choose the standard amount will only need to fill out one line on their tax returns. The standard amount for those claiming is as follows:

- \* one exemption, the standard refund amount is: \$30
- \* two exemptions, the standard refund amount is: \$40
- \* three exemptions, the standard refund amount is: \$50
- \* four exemptions or more, the standard refund amount is: \$60

The instructions to the 2006 1040 tax forms will provide more information on how to determine the correct number of exemptions.

The standard amount is based on actual telephone usage. Using this amount is the easiest way for taxpayers to get their refunds and avoid gathering 41 months of old phone records.

Businesses and nonprofits must fill out the new Form 8913 and base their refund requests on the actual amount of tax they paid.

Additional information on how to obtain the telephone tax refund can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

