



STATE OF FLORIDA  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
ALEX SINK

October 16, 2009

Ms. Lisa Echeverri  
Executive Director  
Florida Department of Revenue  
5050 West Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0100

Dear Ms. Echeverri:

Thank you for meeting with me on September 29, 2009, to discuss the responsibility for payment of transient rentals tax by Internet travel companies to the State of Florida. As we discussed, Internet travel companies that book hotel rooms have not been remitting sales and use tax revenues to the State of Florida in the manner directed by section 212.03, Florida Statutes. Particularly in these difficult budget times for our state, it is critical that the State of Florida's Department of Revenue does everything it can to ensure that Florida is receiving all of the revenues to which we are entitled under Florida law.

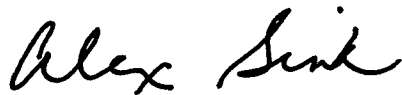
Other states and local governments have brought administrative and legal actions under their statutory schemes to collect underpaid tax revenue from Internet travel companies. Given Florida's budget needs, I would like to bring this matter up for discussion at the next Cabinet meeting on October 27, 2009.

As we discussed at our meeting last month, if the sale of hotel rooms by Internet travel companies results in lower revenues to the Department of Revenue, then it is my recommendation that the Department of Revenue conduct a thorough audit to determine the nature of these transactions and the amount of the underpayment of Florida's hotel tax. My legal staff has been working with your General Counsel's office, and can assist your General Counsel in developing a list of proposed audit questions. Without an audit by the Department of Revenue, the state does not have a way to verify the amount of tax dollars at stake.

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I appreciate in advance your willingness to discuss this matter in detail with the Cabinet at our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Sink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Sink

AS/rtr

cc: The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor  
The Honorable Charles Bronson, Commissioner, Agriculture and Consumer Services  
The Honorable Bill McCollum, Attorney General