

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

With Back-To-School Investments Near, Eligible Minnesotans Reminded To File Renter's Tax Refund And Homestead Credit Refund In Advance of the August 15 Deadline

St. Paul, Minnesota – August 8, 2016 – It is likely that thousands of Minnesotans miss an important opportunity to claim a refund on their renter's property tax or homestead credit, in spite of the State's best efforts to notify potentially eligible taxpayers.

On August 15, 2016, the filing period for the 2015 homestead credit expires, and that same day the filing period for claiming the 2014 renters' credit expires. Based on the 2013 renter's credit and 2014 homestead credit, these two opportunities collectively represent over \$584 million¹ in available refunds for Minnesotans at a time when families have back-to-school as well as other expenses.

"Retailers in every community across the State know firsthand that families could use help paying for back-to-schools items—from paper to printers, and pencils to pants. Depending on timing, the State's property tax refund programs can go a long way in helping Minnesotans meet their back-to-school needs," said Minnesota Retailers Association president Bruce Nustad.

According to estimates released by the National Retail Federation, the average family with children in grades K-12 will spend \$673 on apparel and accessories, electronics, shoes and school supplies this year². In 2013 the average refund for the renters' credit refund was \$647¹ and the average 2014 homestead credit refund was \$865¹.

"Given the competitive market today as evidenced in the number of back-to-school deals, it's a great time for families to go school shopping. We think it's important that the retail community do what it can to remind people of the availability of these important programs that could help families when making those essential purchases and investments," added Nustad.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has [tips for refund seekers on its website](#), including determining eligibility, not spending your refund before it is received, and tracking refunds with its [Where's My Refund?](#) system. In addition the Department has short tips videos available for the [renter's refund](#) and [homeowner's refund](#) programs.

For eligibility and filing information visit
http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/individuals/prop_tax_refund/Pages/File-and-Pay.aspx.

About the Minnesota Retailers Association: Since 1952 the Minnesota Retailers Association (MnRA) has been the champion for retail business in Minnesota, both large and small. MnRA's 1,200 plus member establishments are a diverse group, ranging from companies like Bachman's to the Uffda Shop in Red Wing. mnretail.org.

¹ Minnesota House of Representatives Research *Short Subjects*, December 2015.

² National Retail Federation annual back-to-school survey, July 21, 2016.

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