



NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 3, 2016). Dawn Cash, president of the FTA Board of Trustees and Commissioner with the Oklahoma Tax Commission, today thanked all of the private and public sector individuals who have given their time and expertise to collectively work to protect the American tax system from refund and identity thieves.

“The bulk of the work will probably never be recognized,” said Commissioner Cash, “because security measures are little good if they serve as a roadmap to further criminal behavior. A few ideas or changes are visible, such as last year’s decision to begin asking for driver’s license numbers on income tax returns. But most of the Security Summit accomplishments take place behind the scenes. And that’s too bad. I wish the taxpayers could appreciate the width and depth of this work, and recognize the groundbreaking level of private-public partnership that drives us forward.

“We have pledged ourselves to bring 52 governments, dozens of competitive vendors, and a number of associations and coalitions together in as many different ways as possible to strengthen the foundation of the income tax filing system. It is gratifying to see how many different ways we have already identified and begun to implement changes.

“We know there is more work ahead of us. We know that even the Summit cannot address every structural threat to the income tax filing system. That is why you see states taking steps such as changing their laws to require employers to file employee W-2 reports with the states by Jan. 30. This is why there is a new federal law that will schedule certain high-risk federal refunds to be paid no sooner than mid-February.

“But whether work is done within the Summit or, as needed, outside the Summit, we are determined to collectively identify our opportunities and to make sure identity theft and refund fraud is no longer a profitable enterprise for criminals.”

FTA is an association of the principal revenue agencies in the 50 states, Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia.

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