http://finance.senate.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors

Fr: Jill Gerber for Chairman Grassley, 202/224-6522

Re: National Taxpayer Advocate's 2005 Annual Report to Congress

Da: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, with Senate jurisdiction over the Internal Revenue Service, today made the following comment on the National Taxpayer Advocate's 2005 Annual Report to Congress.

"The taxpayer advocate's report gives the Finance Committee thoughtful and critical analysis on a lot of different issues, especially ways to provide better services for taxpayers and improved protection of taxpayer rights. I'm especially troubled by the issues the taxpayer advocate raises about the IRS criminal investigation division's freezing of refunds. Refunds have been a source of abuse recently but we need to make sure taxpayers have proper due process when the IRS decides to freeze a refund."