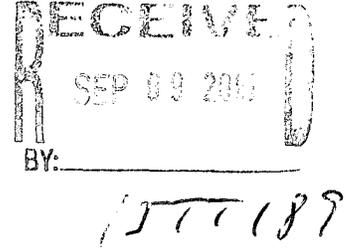


**IN THE ILLINOIS INDEPENDENT TAX TRIBUNAL  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

MOHAMMED AND ROHEE RAHMAN, )  
 )  
 Petitioners, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )

No.



**PETITION**

Petitioners, Mohammed and Rohee Rahman (“Petitioners”), by and through their attorneys, The Law Office of James E. Dickett, Ltd., complain of the Defendant, the Illinois Department of Revenue (“Department”), and alleges as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Petitioners are individuals located at 9107 South Thomas Avenue, Bridgeview, Illinois, 60455, and can be reached at 708-796-7432.
2. Petitioners are represented by The Law Office of James E. Dickett, Ltd. Attorney James E. Dickett, located at 600 Hillgrove Avenue, Suite 1, Western Springs, Illinois, 60558 and can be reached at 708-784-3200 or [jdickett@aol.com](mailto:jdickett@aol.com).
3. Petitioners’ Taxpayer (Account) ID is XXX-XX-XXXX (redacted).
4. The Department is an agency of the Executive Department of the State Government and is tasked with the enforcement and administration of Illinois tax laws. 20 ILCS 5/5-15.

## NOTICE

5. On July 24, 2015, Petitioner received three Notice of Deficiency letters for Form IL-1040 (“Notices”) for the tax years 2010 and 2011. The Notices, in aggregate, reflect more than \$15,000 in tax due, plus penalties and interest. The Notices are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

## JURISDICTION

6. Petitioner brings this action pursuant to the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Act (“Tribunal Act”), 35 ILCS 1010/1-1 to 35 ILCS 1010/1-100.

7. This Tribunal has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 1-45 and 1-50 of the Tribunal Act because Petitioner timely filed this Petition within 60 days of the Notice.

## BACKGROUND

8. One of the Petitioners (Mohammed Rahman) is the owner of an S corporation that was a petroleum retailer formerly located in Chicago.

9. Defendant audited the S corporation’s books and records for sales tax for the periods 2010 and 2011, and, based on that audit, the Department projected the individual income tax assessments at issue herein without providing the proper allowance for cost of goods sold for the corporation.

## COUNT I

### **Defendant’s audit methodology overstates Petitioners’ liability.**

10. Petitioners reallege and incorporate by reference the allegation made in paragraphs 1 through 9, inclusive, hereinabove.

11. The Department assessed the tax liabilities contained in the Notices based on the sales tax audit results without providing the proper allowance for cost of goods sold.

12. By applying the Department's corporate sales tax audit results to the business income tax Notices herein, the Department drastically and unreasonable inflated Petitioners' individual income tax liability.

**WHEREFORE**, Petitioners pray that the Tribunal enter an order that:

- (a) enters judgment in favor of Petitioners and against the Defendants and cancels the Notices;
- (b) enjoins the Department from taking any action to assess, lien, levy, offset, or any other way prosecute and collect the amount due on the Notices;
- (c) grants such further relief as the Tribunal deems appropriate.

## **COUNT II**

### **All penalties should be abated based on reasonable cause.**

13. Petitioners reallege and incorporate by reference the allegation made in paragraphs 1 through 12, inclusive, hereinabove.

14. In its Notices, the Department assessed late filing and late payment penalties.

15. Illinois law provides that neither late penalties nor negligence penalties apply if a taxpayer shows that its failure to pay tax was due to reasonable cause. 35 ILCS 735/3-8.

16. The most important factor to be considered in making a determination to abate a penalty will be the extent to which the taxpayer made a good faith effort to determine its proper tax liability and to pay its proper tax liability in a timely fashion, and a taxpayer will be considered to have made a good faith effort to determine and pay its proper tax liability if it exercised ordinary business care and prudence in doing so. 86 Ill. Admin. Code 700.400(b).

17. Petitioners exercised ordinary business care and prudence when they reasonably determined its business income liability during the audit periods and clearly did not use the Department's proposed sales tax audit results.

**WHEREFORE**, Petitioners pray that the Tribunal enter an order that:

- (a) finds and declares that all penalties should be fully abated based on reasonable cause;
- (b) enjoins the Department from taking any action to assess, lien, levy, offset, or any other way prosecute and collect the amount of penalties due on the Notices; and
- (c) grants such further relief as the Tribunal deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Thank you for considering this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Mohammed and Rohee Rahman,  
Petitioners

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
One of Petitioners' Attorneys

Date:

9-8-15

James E. Dickett  
600 Hillgrove Avenue, Suite 1  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
708-784-3200 (fax 3201)  
Email: jdickett@aol.com

**Notice of Deficiency**  
for Form IL-1040, Individual Income Tax Return



Exhibit  
1

July 24, 2015



Letter ID: CNXXXX9562181289

\_\_\_\_\_  
#BWNKMGV  
#CNXX XX95 6218 1289#  
MOHAMMED A. and ROHEE P P. RAHMAN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
9107 S THOMAS AVE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRIDGEVIEW IL 60455-2604

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-7202  
Audit ID: A1120706560  
Reporting period: December 2010  
Total Deficiency: \$12,009.34  
Balance due: \$12,009.34

We have audited your account for the reporting period listed above. The attached statement explains the computation of your deficiency and the balance due. **Illinois law requires that we notify you of this deficiency and your rights.**

**If you agree to this deficiency**, pay the total balance due as soon as possible to minimize penalty and interest assessed. Make your check payable to the "Illinois Department of Revenue", write your taxpayer ID on your check, and mail a copy of this notice along with your payment.

**If you do not agree, you may contest this notice by following the instructions listed below.**

- **If the amount of this tax deficiency, exclusive of penalty and interest is more than \$15,000, or if no tax deficiency is assessed, but the total penalties and interest is more than \$15,000**, file a petition with the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal within **60 days** of this notice. Your petition must be in accordance with the rules of practice and procedure provided by the Tribunal (35 ILCS 1010/1-1, et seq.).
- **In all other cases**, file a protest with us, the Illinois Department of Revenue, within **60 days** of the date of this notice. If you file a protest on time, we must reconsider the proposed deficiency, and if requested, grant you or your authorized representative and administrative hearing. An administrative hearing is a formal legal proceeding conducted pursuant to the rules adopted by the Department and is presided over by an administrative law judge. Submit your protest on Form EAR-14, Format for Filing a Protest for Income Tax, (available on our website at [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov)). If we do not receive your protest within **60 days**, this deficiency will become final. A protest of this notice does not preserve your rights under any other notice.
- **In any case**, you may instead, under Sections 2a and 2a.1 of the State Officers and Employees Money Disposition Act (30 ILCS 230/2a, 230/2a.1), pay the total liability under protest using Form RR-374, Notice of Payment Under Protest (available on our website at [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov)), and file a complaint with the circuit court for a review of our determination.

If you do not protest this notice or pay the assessment total in full, we may take collection action against you for the balance due which, may include levy of your wages and bank accounts, filing of a tax lien, or other action.

If you have questions, call us at the telephone number shown below.

Sincerely,

Constance Beard  
Director

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
AUDIT BUREAU  
PO BOX 19012  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9012

(217) 558-4960

**Notice of Deficiency**  
for Form IL-1040, Individual Income Tax Return



July 24, 2015



Letter ID: CNXXXXX316533449

#BWNKMGV  
#CNXX XXX3 1653 3449#  
MOHAMMED A. and ROHEE P P. RAHMAN  
9107 S THOMAS AVE  
BRIDGEVIEW IL 60455-2604

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-7202  
Audit ID: A1120706560  
Reporting period: December 2011  
Total Deficiency: \$12,831.43  
Balance due: \$12,994.43

We have audited your account for the reporting period listed above. The attached statement explains the computation of your deficiency and the balance due. **Illinois law requires that we notify you of this deficiency and your rights.**

**If you agree to this deficiency**, pay the total balance due as soon as possible to minimize penalty and interest assessed. Make your check payable to the "Illinois Department of Revenue", write your taxpayer ID on your check, and mail a copy of this notice along with your payment.

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