



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Utah State Tax Commission

JOHN L. VALENTINE
Commission Chair

MICHAEL J. CRAGUN
Commissioner

ROBERT P. PERO
Commissioner

REBECCA L. ROCKWELL
Commissioner

BARRY C. CONOVER
Executive Director

NEWS RELEASE

February 9, 2016

Contact: Charlie Roberts (801 556-6318, 801 297-3910, charlie@utah.gov)

National organization honors Utah State Tax Commission

The Tax Foundation, a national independent tax policy research organization, honored the Utah State Tax Commission for preventing identity theft and tax fraud.

The organization honored Utah with its outstanding achievement in state tax reform award.

“Chairman John L. Valentine and Fraud Unit Manager Dolores Furniss and their team at the Utah State Tax Commission saved taxpayers over \$11 million by uncovering and alerting authorities to stolen identity tax refund fraud occurring through commercial software in 2015,” the agency posted on its website.

After Furniss and her group detected widespread fraud as returns began to be filed, she alerted executive director Barry Conover and the Tax Commission investigated the causes.

“Utah was the first state to notice the fraud and within 24 hours, vendors began working with other states to address it. New data sharing arrangements will protect taxpayer information going forward, thanks to their efforts.”

The Tax Foundation, founded in 1937, is a leading independent tax policy research organization.

###