



**PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER**

Earlier this year, the General Assembly charged the Virginia Department of Taxation with the responsibility to establish a tax amnesty program. Because Tax Amnesty could have a significant impact upon your organization, I want you to be aware of some of its components.

Today we are announcing that the 2003 Virginia Tax Amnesty Program will be offered to qualified taxpayers from Tuesday, September 2 through Monday, November 3, 2003. Virginia Tax Amnesty will allow delinquent taxpayers to pay eligible taxes owed to the state with no penalties and only half of the accrued interest for each tax bill paid during the amnesty period.

Many of you may recall the Commonwealth's first amnesty program in 1990, which accelerated the collection of tens of millions of dollars. Then, as now, amnesty provided an attractive incentive for delinquent taxpayers to catch up on taxes they may owe the state. We have high expectations that, with your help, 2003 Virginia Tax Amnesty will be even more successful, helping to generate an additional \$48.5 million in much-needed revenues.

- Concurrent with the media release, we have activated a special web site at [www.VaTaxAmnesty.com](http://www.VaTaxAmnesty.com).

Between now and September 2<sup>nd</sup>, program guidelines and operations are being finalized. Until September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Department of Taxation representatives do NOT have access to additional Amnesty information. Customers, media, tax professionals and advocacy groups are encouraged to visit the web site for additional information.

After Labor Day, we will launch an extensive public education campaign. Outreach by the Virginia Department of Taxation will include a notice mailed to taxpayers with eligible bills and delinquent returns on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with information and instructions. At the same time, a special Virginia Tax Amnesty toll-free number will be activated to provide support to individuals, businesses and tax professionals, whether or not they receive formal notice, and to answer specific questions about their account and the program.

We will work closely with you to ensure that you have the most complete information, and that the process for payment is as straightforward, convenient and accessible as possible.

Look for more information soon. In the meantime, you can stay abreast of the latest available information at [www.VaTaxAmnesty.com](http://www.VaTaxAmnesty.com).

If you have any questions, please email us at [VaTaxAmnesty@tax.state.va.us](mailto:VaTaxAmnesty@tax.state.va.us).