

## Form 1120-S Legalese and Disclosures for Use in Preparing 2017 Tax Returns

Our engagement is limited to performing the following services:

1. Prepare the federal and state corporate income tax returns based upon those filed with your 2014 return.
2. Prepare any bookkeeping entries we find necessary in connection with preparation of the income tax returns.
3. Prepare and post any adjusting entries.

We will not audit or verify the data you submit, although we may ask you to clarify it, or furnish us with additional data.

This engagement letter does not cover the preparation of any financial statements, which, if we are to provide, will be covered under a separate engagement letter.

You are responsible for the safeguarding of assets, the proper recording of transactions in the books of accounts, the substantial accuracy of the financial records, and the full and accurate disclosure of all relevant facts affecting the return(s) to us. You also have final responsibility for the tax return and, therefore, the appropriate officials should review the return carefully before an authorized officer signs and files it.

You are confirming to us that unless we are otherwise advised, the travel, entertainment, gifts, and related expenses are supported by the necessary records required under Section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have any questions as to the type of records required, please ask us for advice in that regard.

We may provide you with a questionnaire or other document requesting specific information. Completing those forms will assist us in making sure you are well served for a reasonable fee. You represent that the information you are supplying to us is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and that you have disclosed to us all relevant facts affecting the returns. We will not verify the information you give us; however, we may ask for additional clarification of some information.

If, during our work, we discover information that affects prior-year tax returns, we will make you aware of the facts. However, we cannot be responsible for identifying all items that may affect prior-year returns. If you become aware of such information during the year, please contact us to discuss the best resolution of the issue. We will be happy to prepare appropriate amended returns as a separate engagement.

The IRS and U.S. Treasury issued final tangible property regulations (TPRs) that govern when taxpayers must capitalize and when they can deduct expenditures for acquiring, producing or improving tangible property. These regulations were fully effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. The final regulations created new annual elections, and while certain safe harbors and elections are implemented through filing statements or treatment of an item on a timely filed federal tax return, the IRS considers the remaining provisions to be a change in accounting method, which may require the filing of Form 3115, *Application for Change in*

*Accounting Method.*

If we become aware that you may be using an accounting method not in accordance with the final TPR regulations, our firm may need additional time to analyze your current and prior acquisitions and improvements to properly complete Form 3115. You accept ultimate responsibility for your capitalization analyses and decisions, and you agree to provide us with the information necessary to prepare the appropriate elections and/or method change IRS form(s). Please ask us for advice if you have any questions regarding your company's application of these regulations.

If you have asked us to receive in our office and file your QuickBooks files for the purpose of preparing your tax returns, you understand that we are not responsible for the accuracy and completeness of your company's books and records. As such, our services related to maintaining the QuickBooks files in our office are for your convenience only. Accordingly, we will not advise you regarding the proper recording or appropriateness of the underlying transactions.

The law provides for a penalty to be imposed where a taxpayer makes a substantial understatement of his or her tax liability. For S-corporations and individual taxpayers, a substantial understatement exists when the understatement for the year exceeds the greater of 10 percent of the tax required to be shown on the return or \$5,000. The penalty is 20 percent of the underpayment. Taxpayers other than "tax shelters" may seek to avoid all or part of the penalty by showing (1) that they acted in good faith and there was reasonable cause for the understatement, (2) that the understatement was based on substantial authority, or (3) that the relevant facts affecting the item's tax treatment were adequately disclosed on the return. A taxpayer is considered a "tax shelter" if its principal purpose is to avoid Federal income tax. Because an S-corporation is an entity whose tax attributes flow through to its shareholders, the penalty for substantial understatement of tax relating to S-corporation items may be imposed on the shareholder. You agree to advise us if you wish disclosure to be made in your returns or if you wish for us to identify or perform further research with respect to any material tax issues for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in our opinion, there is "substantial authority" for the position proposed to be taken on such issues in your returns.

Our work in connection with the preparation of your income tax returns does not include any procedures designed to discover fraud, defalcations, or other irregularities, should any exist. We will render such accounting and bookkeeping assistance as we find necessary for preparing the income tax returns.

You are also confirming that you will furnish us with all the information required for preparing the returns.

We will use our professional judgment in preparing your returns. Whenever we are aware that a possibly applicable tax law is unclear or that there are conflicting interpretations of the law by authorities (e.g., tax agencies and courts), we will explain the possible positions that may be taken on your return. In accordance with our professional standards, we will follow whatever position you request, as long as it is consistent with the codes, regulations, and interpretations that have been promulgated. If the Internal Revenue Service should later contest the position

taken, there may be an assessment of additional tax plus interest and penalties. We assume no liability for any such additional penalties or assessments. In the event, however, that you ask us to take a tax position that in our professional judgment will not meet the applicable laws and standards as promulgated, we reserve the right to stop work and shall not be liable for any damages that occur as a result of ceasing to render services.

**Please note that any person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates) having a financial interest in, or signature or other authority over, bank accounts, securities, or other financial accounts having an aggregate value exceeding \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year in a foreign country, shall report such a relationship. Although there are some limited exceptions, filing requirements also apply to taxpayers that have direct or indirect control over a foreign or domestic entity with foreign financial accounts, even if the taxpayer does not have foreign account(s). For example, a corporate-owned foreign account would require filings by the corporation *and* by the individual corporate officers with signature authority. Failure to disclose the required information to the U.S. Department of the Treasury may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties.**

**If you and/or your entity have a financial interest in, or signature authority over, any foreign accounts, you are responsible for providing our firm with all the information necessary to prepare the Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in order for the FBAR to be received by the Department on or before June 30th of each tax year. Electronic filing of FBAR reports is mandatory using the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) e-filing system for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). If you would like our firm to submit your electronic FBAR report (FinCEN Form 114) on your behalf, we must receive a signed consent form (FinCEN Form 114a) from you prior to submitting the foreign reporting form. If you do not provide our firm with information regarding any interest you may have in a foreign account, or if we do not receive your signed authorization to file your foreign reporting form, we will not be able to prepare and file any of the required disclosure statements.**

**In addition, the Internal Revenue Service also requires information reporting under applicable Internal Revenue Code sections and related regulations, and the respective IRS tax forms are due when your income tax return is due, including extensions. The IRS reporting requirements are in addition to the U.S. Department of the Treasury reporting requirements stated above. Therefore, if you fall into one of the below categories, or if you have any direct or indirect foreign interests, you may be required to file applicable IRS forms.**

- **You are an individual or entity with ownership of foreign financial assets and meet the specified criteria (Form 8938);**
- **You are an officer, director, or shareholder with respect to certain foreign corporations (Form 5471);**
- **You are a foreign-owned U.S. corporation or foreign corporation engaged in a U.S. trade or business (Form 5472);**
- **You are a U.S. transferor of property to a foreign corporation (Form 926);**
- **You are a U.S. person with an interest in a foreign trust (Forms 3520 and 3520-A);**

or

- You are a U.S. person with interests in a foreign partnership (Form 8865).

**Failure to timely file the appropriate forms with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service may result in substantial monetary penalties. You accept responsibility for informing us if you believe that you may have foreign reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and/or Internal Revenue Service and you agree to timely provide us with the information necessary to prepare the appropriate form(s). We assume no liability for penalties associated with the failure or untimely filing of any of these forms.**

Federal law has extended the attorney-client privilege to some, but not all, communications between a client and the client's CPA. The privilege applies only to non-criminal tax matters that are before the IRS or brought by or against the U.S. government in a federal court. The communications must be made in connection with tax advice. Communications solely concerning the preparation of a tax return will not be privileged.

In addition, the confidentiality privilege can be inadvertently waived if the contents of any privileged communication are discussed with a third party, such as a lending institution, a friend, or a business associate. We recommend that you contact us before releasing any privileged information to a third party. As a corporation, you need to be especially careful about privileged communications. If a communication is made in the presence of a corporate employee who is not authorized to act or speak for the corporation in relation to the communication's subject matter, then the communication will be deemed to be made in the presence of a third party and any privilege will be waived.

If we are asked to disclose any privileged communication, unless we are required to disclose the communication by law, we will not provide such disclosure until you have had an opportunity to argue that the communication is privileged. You agree to pay any and all reasonable expenses that we incur, including legal fees, that are a result of attempts to protect any communication as privileged.

You acknowledge that you are responsible for management decisions and functions. That responsibility includes designating qualified individuals with the necessary expertise to be responsible and accountable for overseeing all the specific services we perform as part of this engagement, as well as evaluating the adequacy and results of the services performed. You are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

The firm may from time to time, and depending on the circumstance, use third-party service providers to assist in preparing your return, but these preparers will not make substantive decisions concerning your return. We may share your tax return information with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information, and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the

unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. The firm will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Management is responsible for the design, implementation and administration of applicable policies that may be required under the Affordable Care Act. As Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC is not rendering any legal services as part of our engagement, we will not be responsible for advising you with respect to the legal or regulatory aspects of your company's compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

In addition, in the event our firm or any of its employees or agents is called as a witness or requested to provide any information whether oral, written, or electronic in any judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative hearing or trial regarding information or communications that you have provided to this firm, or any documents and workpapers prepared by Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC in accordance with the terms of this agreement, you agree to pay any and all reasonable expenses, including fees and costs for our time at the rates specified in our engagement letter, as well as any legal or other fees that we incur as a result of such appearance or production of documents.

The IRS permits you to authorize us to discuss, on a limited basis, aspects of your return for one year after the return's due date. Your consent to such a discussion is evidenced by checking a box on the return. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will check that box authorizing the IRS to discuss your return with us.

The price does not include responding to inquiries from taxing authorities. Our firm is also not responsible for a taxing authority's disallowance of doubtful deductions or deductions that are not supported by you with adequate documentation, nor for resulting taxes, penalties, and interest.

The return(s) may be selected for review by the taxing authorities. In the event of an audit, you may be requested to produce documents, records, or other evidence to substantiate the items of income and deduction shown on a tax return. Any proposed adjustments by the examining agent are subject to certain rights of appeal. In the event of a tax examination, we will be available, upon request, to represent you. However, such additional services are not included in the fees for the preparation of the tax return(s).

If any loans exist between the company and shareholders, the loan should be documented in the form of a note. The note should have a stated interest rate based on the IRS applicable federal rate (which is subject to change annually) and for the type of loan (demand or term). The interest should be paid each year the loan is in effect and a Form 1099 should be issued to you for the interest income. If formal documented loan terms are not drawn up, any loan balance could be at risk of being reclassified in a less favorable manner for tax purposes should your return be examined by the IRS. These are the steps recommended to take as the officer of the organization:

1. Create a loan agreement between you and your organization.
2. The loan agreement needs to state the amount of interest to be calculated.
3. The loan agreement needs to state when the loan is to be paid back (repayment schedule).

4. The loan agreement needs to state if there is collateral for this loan.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. We take reasonable measures to secure your confidential information in our email transmissions, including password protecting tax returns and other confidential documents. However, as emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure or communication of email transmissions, or for the unauthorized use or failed delivery of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of sales or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for seven years. However, Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC does not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies.

You acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the seven year period Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

We have the right to withdraw from this engagement, in our discretion, if you do not provide us with any information we request in a timely manner, refuse to cooperate with our reasonable requests or misrepresent any facts. Our withdrawal will release us from any obligation to complete your return and will complete our engagement. You agree to compensate us for our time and out-of-pocket expenses through the date of our withdrawal.

In the event that a dispute arises at any time between the company and the firm that cannot be resolved through discussion or voluntary mediation, the parties agree to submit the entire dispute to binding, non-public arbitration. The arbitration shall take place in the offices of the arbitrator, or at a mutually agreeable location. The rules under which the arbitration shall take place shall be the rules of the American Arbitration Association or other such alternative dispute resolution procedures as may be agreed upon by the parties. Any statements made in preparation for or the conduct of the actual arbitration shall be confidential and the parties agree not to use any such statements in any other matter, including any litigation between the parties and other third-parties not a part to this engagement letter. Unless otherwise agreed, the parties agree that no depositions shall proceed in connection with the arbitration and that only requests for the production of documents shall be used as a discovery device in the arbitration. Moreover, unless otherwise agreed, the parties agree that an arbitration of the dispute shall take place no later than six (6) months after service of a demand for arbitration on the other party.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to your company and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please note that you are affirming to Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC your understanding of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions of this letter along with the Legalese and Disclosures outlined on our website by any one of the following actions: returning your signed engagement letter to our firm, returning your income tax information to us for use in the preparation of your returns, the submission of the tax returns we have prepared for you to the taxing authorities, or payment of any portion of our return preparation fees.