



For Immediate Release
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Danville Man Arrested for Possession/ Sale of Unstamped Cigarettes

SPRINGFIELD -- Kenneth R. McQueen, age 64, of Danville, Illinois was issued a summons today to appear before a Vermilion County court on June 8. He was arrested on April 28, 2011 following an investigation by the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR), Criminal Investigations /Tax Enforcement Division, for Possession and Sale of Unstamped Cigarettes.

The arrest followed a six week long investigation of McQueen. Agents of IDOR were assisted by the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VMEG) Unit during the course of the investigation, which included the execution of a search warrant at McQueen's residence. Agents seized 88 cartons, (880 packs) of unstamped cigarettes, including a large quantity of cigarettes illegally transported from the state of Missouri as well as overseas via the internet to avoid paying the Illinois Cigarette Tax. Tax for one pack of cigarettes in Illinois is 98 cents while in Missouri is 17 cents.

"Honest taxpayers must know that those who cheat on their taxes will be pursued," said Brian Hamer, Director of Revenue. "Tax fraud and tax evasion cause law abiding Illinois citizens to share a greater tax burden."

McQueen was arrested and transported to the Vermilion County Sheriff's Office where he was charged with a Class 4 Felony of Possession/Sale of Unstamped Cigarettes. Agencies assisting the Illinois Department of Revenue were the VMEG Unit of Vermilion County, Vermilion County State's Attorney's Office and the Vermilion County Sheriff's Office. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office will prosecute the case.