

St. Petersburg Times



The Buzz

From the staff of the St. Petersburg Times

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Documents here from the online travel company tax dispute

Here are the internal company documents from online travel company Expedia, Orbitz and others that Rep. Rick Kriseman is urging Attorney General **Pam Bondi** to investigate. [Download Kriseman_letter_to_Atty_Gen_Bondi_-_online_travel_resellers\[1\]](#) The issue has drawn legal and political fights for years and Kriseman, along with the lawyers for cities and counties across Florida and the nation, believe the documents show what they've been arguing all along: the companies have had an orchestrated campaign to avoid paying taxes they believe are owed.

Company representatives say the documents are being unfairly taken out of context in an attempt to show that the companies have committed fraud. Today, the companies say they never have owed the taxes and have pursued a political campaign to change or clarify the laws. That effort has not yet been successful. Meanwhile, here are the documents that emerged in January in a Georgia court battle:

[Download 2003 01 28 Memo to USA Interactive](#); [Download 2003 01 31 Memo to Expedia\[1\]](#); [Download 2003 07 28 MSB Occupancy Tax Analysis](#); [Download 2006 03 30 Pennsylvania DOR response to John Allan](#); [Download 2008 10 02 Georgia DOR letter](#); [Download 2008 12 03 Columbus GA \(Orbitz\) Report of Special Master crime fraud order](#); [Download 2009 08 21 EXPEDIA - Report of Special Master](#).

Here's the unfair trade practices lawsuit filed by Former Attorney General **Bill McCollum** in 2009 against Expedia and Orbitz. [Download Fla+Atty+General+Bill+McCollum+lawsuit+vs+dot+coms\[2\]](#)

The full story is [here](#).