



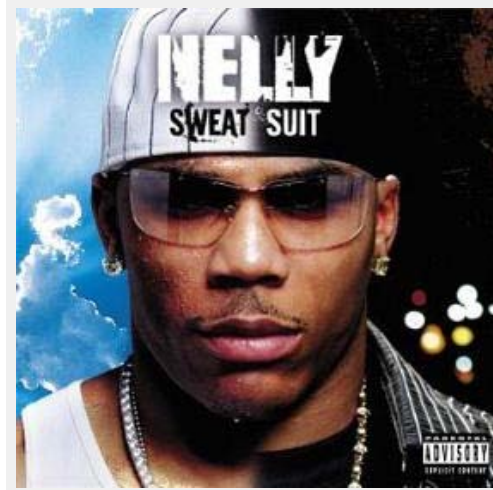
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Government Shutdown, No Taxes, Raps Nelly---And He's Right

Whoa Nelly! There should be **no** taxes until the government goes back to work, says the Rap star known as Nelly. That is hardly a radical sentiment and others have said it too. Still, Nelly—born Cornell Irail Haynes, Jr.—does it with style. His campaign is reported here: [Nelly For President! The M.O. Rapper Says No Taxes Until Government Shutdown Is Over.](#) Whether you like Hip Hop, Rap, Jazz, Folk, Soul or Classical, it's easy to embrace Nelly's message.



(Photo credit: Wikipedia)

“I’m trying to campaign, since the government ain’t working, we shouldn’t have to pay taxes,” Nelly told VH1. “Because, you know, paying taxes is supposed to pay for the government, which in turn is not working. So if they’re not working, I shouldn’t have to pay taxes. And me being in the upper echelon of the tax bracket, feel that the money I could be saving over these next couple of days could be very vital to my survival...So y’all keep banging.”

Republican or Democrat, it seems hard to argue with this logic. It's also nice to hear someone admit that they are paying considerable taxes, or as Nelly put it, in the upper echelon of the tax bracket. But high or low, everyone is a little tired of theatrics, of no service at the IRS and elsewhere. And yet taxes and filings are coming due like a freight train.

In fact, want to add insult to injury? Nelly is telling all of us we **shouldn't** have to pay until the federal government reopens for business. At the same time, the IRS is expressing the opposite, **warning** us all that we'd better keep on filing and keep on paying. The IRS announced that:

“The current lapse in federal appropriations does not affect the federal tax law, and all taxpayers should continue to meet their tax obligations as normal. Individuals and businesses should keep filing their tax returns and making deposits with the IRS, as required by law.”

Yes, the IRS issued a reminder that the Oct. 15 deadline remains in effect for filers who requested a six-month extension to file their tax return.

See [Reminder: Oct. 15 Tax Deadline Remains During Appropriations Lapse](#).

And that reminder makes Nelly's musical message all that much more poignant. Of course, Nelly has featured in tax stories before, but none as downright sensible as this one. Back in 2006, around tax time, the story surfaced that Nelly should be deducting his jewel-encrusted teeth.

That made sense since they were celebrated in his hit single, *Grillz*. "I got my mouth lookin' somethin' like a disco ball," Nelly and co-singer Paul Wall rapped in the hit. You can think of it as a rap ode to gem-encrusted dentures. See [Celeb Tax Perks: Can Nelly Deduct His Grillz?](#) There's no evidence to suggest that he deducted them, though he probably could have.

After all, lesser entertainers have claimed bigger tax deductions than that. In fact, sometimes the more unusual and extreme the expense, the more normal it may seem. And in the entertainment world, it can seem that anything goes.

Nelly has sold more than 21 million albums over his career. That makes him one of the top handful of hip-hop artists. But one wonders if he isn't equally well suited to politics. After all, he is making considerably more sense than many in Washington these days.

You can reach me at Wood@WoodLLP.com. This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.