

VICKY HARTZLER
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

WWW.HARTZLER.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

December 18, 2020

2235 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2876

2415 CARTER LANE, SUITE 4
COLUMBIA, MO 65201
(573) 442-9311

1909 NORTH COMMERCIAL STREET
HARRISONVILLE, MO 64701
(816) 884-3411

219 NORTH ADAMS AVENUE
LEBANON, MO 65536
(417) 532-5582

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224-0001

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

We write first and foremost to thank you for the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) accelerated efforts to serve the American people during the ongoing pandemic; especially in light of the added workload from the Economic Impact Payments (EIP) created in the CARES Act, which have been critical to both the health of our economy and support of individuals across the nation. However, we would like to use this opportunity to underscore the current backlog within the IRS and our concern as the next tax cycle quickly approaches.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the IRS implemented social distancing requirements and the use of teleworking, which greatly limited the speed at which tax returns and EIPs were processed. As we learned from your testimony to the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee last month, the IRS currently has around three million pieces of unopened mail and one million unprocessed tax returns. There is a clear need for urgent action to get the IRS caught up so that it can efficiently serve our citizens during the remainder of the year and well into the next.

With that said, we request that the IRS swiftly respond with a detailed step by step plan on how the agency intends to completely catch up on any backlogged and unopened mail in order to prepare for the next filing cycle. We would also like to know what the IRS' contingency plan is in the case of another pandemic, or other national emergency, in order to prevent another major backlog from occurring. Due to the approaching tax filing season, we respectfully request a response no later than January 15, 2021.

As Members of Congress, we stand ready to assist the IRS in eliminating this backlog and overcome the challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. Please let us know if there is anything Congress can do to help the IRS as the agency moves forward in ensuring timely tax returns for our constituents. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicky Hartzler".

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



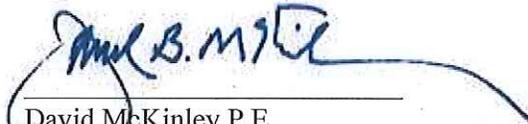
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



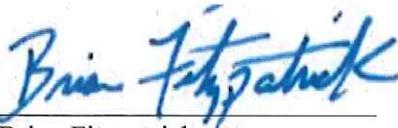
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



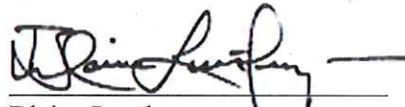
Ed Case
Member of Congress



David McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



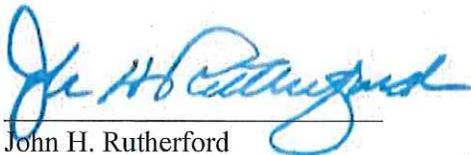
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

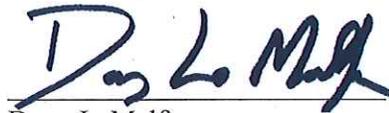


Fred Keller
Member of Congress

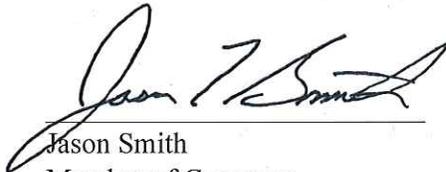
/S/ Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



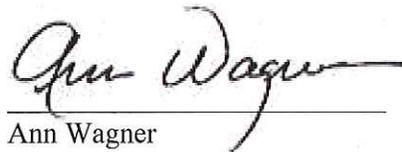
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



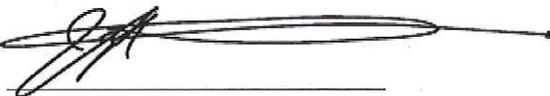
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress