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March 17, 2021

Commissioner Charles Rettig
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

I write today to urge the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to extend this year's tax filing deadline until June 15. With the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency, delayed start to this year's tax season, and new tax provisions included in the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2) that passed last week, additional time for taxpayers to file accurately—and ensure they receive the provisions they are entitled to—is needed.

Last year, as the country went into widespread lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19, the IRS recognized the need for a tax extension and quickly acted. This year is no different. With only a month remaining before the tax deadline, taxpayers in my district who need help filing can't find it. Instead they are encountering overwhelmed IRS phone lines, scarce in-person assistance, and confusion around tax forms, like the 1099-G, that many are receiving for the first time¹. The two-week delay to the start of this year's tax filing season on February 12 only contributed to the confusion and anxiety that taxpayers in my district are experiencing.

Getting money into the pockets of American families must be the priority. Much of the aid passed in the American Rescue Plan will flow through the IRS, including a third round of economic impact payments (EIPs), so it is critical for taxpayers that their tax returns are filed accurately. Last year's extension gave taxpayers the time they needed to file, while also expanding the IRS's capacity to distribute the EIPs and 2019 tax refunds. From early figures, the IRS would again benefit from that additional capacity with more than 6.7 million tax returns from 2020 already backlogged².

I recognize the challenges that the IRS is facing in implementing the recent changes in tax law, as well as the lengths that agency employees have already gone to ensure that aid gets to American families. Your agency has played an essential role over the last year in the response to

¹ **ABC 7 News**, Michael Finney and Simone Chavoor, [California unemployment: EDD addresses improvement strategies, tax confusion](#), February 18, 2021

² **Business Insider**, Ayelet Sheffey, [Nearly 7 million tax returns haven't been processed by the IRS because of stimulus changes](#), March 15, 2021

COVID-19 and I believe these challenges make clear the need for an extension of the current tax deadline to June 15. I look forward to your timely response on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Josh Harder
United States Representative (CA-10)