Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig Commissioner Internal Revenue Service 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20224 Mr. Mark J. Mazur Acting Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Department of the Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Commissioner Rettig and Acting Assistant Secretary Mazur:

We write to urge you to extend the impending April 15th federal tax filing and payment deadline. We welcomed the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) decision last year, after bipartisan calls from Congress, to provide an automatic filing and payment extension to July 15, 2020. Almost a year later, we are still grappling with the massive economic, logistical and health challenges wrought by this devastating pandemic. Millions of stressed-out taxpayers, businesses and preparers would appreciate an extension of the deadline to file their 2020 tax returns.

Over the past year, Congress enacted four historic emergency stimulus packages to deliver relief to Americans through Economic Impact Payments, the Paycheck Protection Program, and the Employee Retention Tax Credit. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, contained a provision excluding from income the first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received in 2020 for those with an adjusted gross income under \$150,000. The IRS will need to take action to address the changes in the tax law, and taxpayers will need additional time to fully understand how this affects their tax liability. Further, taxpayers and tax return preparers are awaiting guidance from the IRS regarding these recent tax changes and are still waiting for some IRS forms to be made available for electronic filing. Compounding these complicating factors, the IRS did not begin the 2020 filing season until February 12, 2021, nearly three weeks later than usual, creating a lot less time for constituents and businesses to file taxes overall.

With limited in-person tax assistance at local tax preparation clinics, libraries, and community centers, tens of millions of our constituents are facing the same logistical hurdles as last year. Additionally, the IRS is struggling to address taxpayer issues, with the agency reporting that it is answering only 1 out of 4 telephone calls. As our leaders on the House Ways and Means Committee have pointed out, compared with the same time last year, 27% fewer tax returns have been filed already and 31% fewer returns have been processed by the IRS.²

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to extend the federal tax filing and payment deadline as Americans, and the IRS, continue to grapple with the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,

Jamie Raskin Member of Congress Bill Pascrell, Jr. Member of Congress

i Bill Hascrell fr

¹ https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/content/dam/jofa/issues/2021/mar/filing-deadline-letter.pdf

² https://waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/unprecedented-conditions-neal-pascrell-urgently-demand-irs-extend-2021

Sent on behalf of the following signatories:

David Trone Ed Perlmutter Donald J. Bacon

Joseph D. Morelle Conor Lamb Jimmy Panetta

Danny K. Davis Dina Titus Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Cindy Axne Chellie Pingree John B. Larson Alan Lowenthal Paul D. Tonko Brian Fitzpatrick Stephen Lynch Jan Schakowsky Thomas R. Suozzi Susan Wild Bonnie Watson Coleman Raúl M. Grijalva Nikema Williams **Eleanor Holmes Norton** Steven Horsford Debbie Dingell Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Terri A. Sewell Madeleine Dean Elaine G. Luria Ann Kirkpatrick Alcee L. Hastings Ted W. Lieu Frank Pallone, Jr.

Marilyn Strickland Angie Craig Scott Peters

Suzanne Bonamici Earl Blumenauer Jerry McNerney

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Andy Levin Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Ed Case Darren Soto Mike Thompson
Al Lawson Mark DeSaulnier Brendan F. Boyle
Adam Smith Bill Posey Josh Gottheimer
Chris Pappas Jesús G. "Chuy" García Tom O'Halleran

Kurt Schrader Jason Crow Gerald E. Connolly Brenda L. Lawrence Karen Bass Adriano Espaillat Ro Khanna Julia Brownley Ruben Gallego **Deborah Ross** Daniel T. Kildee C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger John P. Sarbanes Nydia M. Velázquez Seth Moulton Tom Malinowski Don Beyer Jamaal Bowman Ed.D.

Steve Cohen Peter A. DeFazio Grace Meng Peter Welch Anna G. Eshoo **Brian Higgins** Kathy Manning Jahana Hayes Doris Matsui Norma J. Torres James McGovern Albio Sires **Dwight Evans** Judy Chu Joe Courtney Susie Lee Tony Cárdenas Barbara Lee David N. Cicilline Abigail D. Spanberger Kweisi Mfume Rashida Tlaib Jimmy Gomez Ilhan Omar Joe Neguse Lucille Roybal-Allard Mikie Sherill

Jim Cooper

Betty McCollum

John Katko