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April 30, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig,

I write to request that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) promptly provide a public briefing on the economic impact payments authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. A public webinar previously was scheduled for April 23, but the IRS abruptly cancelled it without explanation the evening prior to the event. I feel very strongly that Americans deserve to hear from the Administration on this important topic and have their questions answered directly by IRS officials.

As you know, Congress authorized the economic impact payments in order to provide critically-needed financial assistance to Americans impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. With a record number of Americans newly unemployed, this aid is needed now more than ever. Though the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) reported that millions already should have received payment, millions more Americans are still waiting. Understandably, these individuals are eager to receive the financial aid that they were promised.


In recent weeks, Congressional offices have been inundated with calls from constituents with questions about their economic impact payments. Among other issues, Americans awaiting payment are wondering if they need to take any further steps. Even those who have received payments have a wide range of questions, including why their payment amount is different than what they expected and how they can resolve outstanding issues with the IRS. In many instances, these Americans need information that only the IRS can provide. Despite Congressional offices' best efforts to provide helpful information, there sometimes is no substitute for going straight to the source.

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Accordingly, I respectfully request that the IRS promptly reschedule the public briefing that was scheduled for April 23. I ask that the briefing occur within the next seven days and that it be made available to the maximum number of people possible. Additionally, I request that Treasury consider providing other public briefings on issues related to this pandemic, including a briefing for small businesses on the availability of relief aid.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
United States House of Representatives