

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 17, 2021

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

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

We write to express concern about the ongoing backlog of unprocessed 2019 tax returns. Based on the latest numbers we have received, over 11 million individual and business returns remain unprocessed, even as the new tax filing season has already begun. We have heard from many constituents who filed their taxes last spring but are still awaiting refunds.

We certainly understand that the IRS currently has a number of important responsibilities—from processing the latest round of Economic Impact Payments to the recent Biden Administration Executive Order, to implementing other COVID-related legislative provisions—all while working to run a successful 2021 tax filing season. That said, we have the following questions:

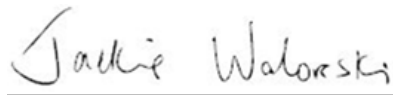
1. Does the agency have a plan for addressing this unprecedented backlog of unprocessed tax returns while still fulfilling its other obligations, such as processing new returns for the current filing season? If yes, please provide us with a copy of the plan.
2. What should taxpayers do who timely filed their 2019 returns, but have still not yet received their refunds? And how is the agency going to communicate that to taxpayers?
3. What will the agency do to make sure that individual taxpayers do not suffer adverse consequences related to their 2020 returns due to delays in processing their 2019 returns?

We ask you to provide answers to these questions as soon as possible. Our constituents have waited many months for tax refunds and need resolution as quickly as possible.



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Mike Kelly  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
Committee on Ways and Means



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Jackie Walorski  
Subcommittee on Oversight



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Brad Wenstrup  
Subcommittee on Oversight



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Lloyd Smucker  
Subcommittee on Oversight



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Drew Ferguson  
Subcommittee on Oversight