



## ***Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act (H.R. 1491)***

### **Background:**

- Taxpayers who file their tax returns by the April 15 filing deadline ordinarily have until April 15 three years later to file a claim for credit or refund of any overpayments of tax.
- When taxpayers are impacted by a major disaster like a wildfire, flood, earthquake, or hurricane, the IRS often provides relief in the form of extending filing and payment deadlines beyond April 15.
  - However, when a filing deadline is postponed due to a federally declared disaster, the three-year “lookback period” for paying refunds is not correspondingly extended.
- As a result, **there is currently no parity for the lookback period between victims of natural disasters who have additional time to claim a refund and those who are given additional time by virtue of requesting a filing postponement.**
- This issue has been listed as **one of the top legislative recommendations by the National Taxpayer Advocate.**

### **The Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act:**

- This bill extends the three-year period for receiving a refund or credit when the IRS extends a filing deadline due to a natural disaster, to ensure that a deadline extension does not shrink a taxpayer’s lookback period.
- Additionally, this bill ensures that the automatic IRS payment deadline is extended to match any disaster-based filing deadline extension.
- The Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act **creates parity for the lookback period so that victims of natural disasters have additional time to claim a refund** in the same way that those who request a filing extension receive additional time.