

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

William “Billy” Long
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Mr. Long:

We write on behalf of our constituents with extreme concern about the tax payment processing delays that are causing confusion and panic throughout Illinois.

Over the last few weeks, we have heard from a number of Illinoisans that they are receiving late notices from your agency, despite previous confirmations of submission and payment. To make matters worse, the late notices also include penalties and fines, which further heightens the urgency for taxpayers to resolve the issue.

Not only is it unacceptable that the IRS has failed to process tax payments in a timely manner—the failure to prevent erroneous late notices from being sent is incredibly damaging to taxpayers’ trust in the IRS. This trust is increasingly important as an increasing number of criminals now attempt to impersonate the IRS to scam vulnerable taxpayers out of their hard-earned money. By sending out incorrect notices, your agency has endangered years of effort to establish confidence in IRS communications.

We believe that your failure to process tax returns and erroneous sending of late notices is a crisis that must be addressed quickly. However, thus far, the IRS’ communications on the topic have been less than inspiring. On the day of your confirmation, June 12, 2025, the IRS finally officially acknowledged that “there is a delay in processing some electronic payments, and that some taxpayers are receiving IRS notices indicating a balance due even though payments were made timely.”¹

While we are glad the IRS has finally acknowledged an issue, the agency’s recent statements to local news media are unclear and confusing. In the IRS’ statement, the agency advised our constituents that, “If a taxpayer has checked their online account and does not see the payment processed by July 15th, they may call the number on their notice.”² However, this does not make

¹ <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-statement-on-delay-in-processing-some-electronic-payments>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/irs-payment-processing-delays-more-reports-bills-taxes-paid/>

clear how our constituents could understand whether the late notice that they received was issued in error or not.

We also want to understand what the root causes of this failure are and how it is possible that the IRS has mismanaged its most basic duty. We know that earlier this year, the IRS fired more than 7,000 probationary employees and let over 20,000 employees leave through multiple deferred resignation programs. We also know that Acting Chief Information Officer Kaschit Pandya told staff in an email earlier this month that the agency needs to “reset and reassess” in part because more than 2,000 IT employees have separated from the IRS since January.³ Undoubtedly, these drastic changes contributed to an environment where the remaining staff was forced to pick up the slack of tens of thousands of employees, without any real plan. The indefinite hiring freeze also ensures that the IRS is unable to hire the staff necessary to fulfill the agency’s basic mission. We hope that the failures of this tax season cause you to reconsider the detrimental actions currently being taken in the form of additional reductions in force and forced attrition. We also look forward to a comprehensive plan to address this issue moving forward.

To assist as we attempt to help our constituents, please provide responses to the following questions no later than July 3, 2025.

1. How many Illinois taxpayers received a notice of late payment? How many in the entire country?
2. Of those taxpayers, how many has the IRS determined received those notices in error?
3. How is the IRS communicating to the taxpayers who received a notice in error?
4. How is the IRS communicating to the taxpayers who received a proper notice of late payment, but is not aware that they committed an error?
5. Will the IRS be waiving any fines, fees or interest as a result of the agency’s confusion?
6. How many IRS employees were processing Illinois tax payments during the previous two years’ tax seasons? How many IRS employees are processing Illinois tax payments during the current tax season?
7. Have all IRS employees who accepted the deferred resignation offer now left the agency? Has this contributed in any way to the delayed processing of tax payments?
8. Can you confirm that of the 8,500 IT employees that the IRS had at the start of the 2025 fiscal year, more than 2,000 IT employees have separated from the IRS?
9. What is the IRS’ plan to ensure that these mistakes do not happen in the future?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions about this congressional inquiry, please contact our staff.

Sincerely,

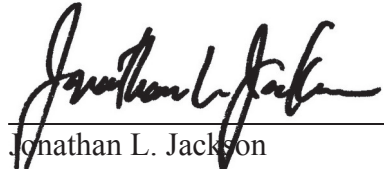
³ <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/workforce/2025/06/nearly-25-of-irs-tech-workers-are-gone-forcing-agency-to-reset-and-reassess/>



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



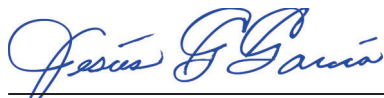
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Letter to the Billy Long, Commissioner, IRS

June 26, 2025

Page 4 of 4

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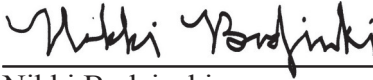
Eric Sorensen

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradley Scott Schneider", written over a horizontal line.

Bradley Scott Schneider

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Budzinski", written over a horizontal line.

Nikki Budzinski

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren Underwood", written over a horizontal line.

Lauren Underwood

Member of Congress

CC:

Michael Faulkender, Deputy Secretary of Treasury