



COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

October 6, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in regard to our recent conversations about certain tax provisions commonly known as "extenders," which expired at the end of 2013. As discussed, it is important that Congress decide whether or not to extend these expired provisions as early as possible when Congress returns and no later than the end of November. Making this decision in a timely manner will allow the IRS to implement Congress's decision without unnecessary disruptions and delays to the upcoming 2015 tax filing season, and it will provide certainty for millions of taxpayers who are affected by the expired provisions.

The IRS's operational preparations for the 2015 filing season are in full swing. As you know, each year the IRS conducts in-depth planning during the summer and fall to ensure that we are prepared for all aspects of the upcoming filing season, including training our customer service employees, revising forms and publications, and programming our technology systems to reflect changes in the tax law.

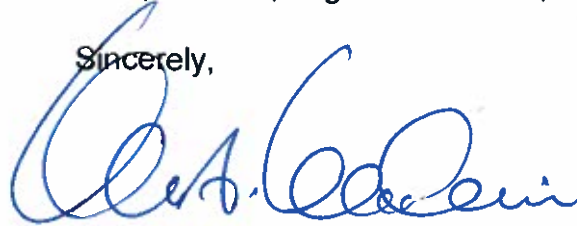
The IRS is currently facing a great deal of uncertainty related to the expired provisions, which raises serious operational and compliance risks. Continued uncertainty would impose even more stress not only on the IRS, but also on the entire tax community, including tax professionals, software providers, and tax volunteers, who are all critical to the successful operation of our nation's tax system. This uncertainty, if it persists into December or later, could force the IRS to postpone the opening of the 2015 filing season and delay the processing of tax refunds for millions of taxpayers. Moreover, if Congress enacts any policy changes to the existing extenders or adds new provisions, the IRS would have to reprogram systems and make processing changes, which would result in longer delays. If Congress waits until 2015 and then enacts retroactive tax law changes affecting 2014, the operational and compliance challenges would be even more severe – likely resulting in service disruptions, millions of taxpayers needing to file amended returns, and substantially delayed refunds.

To avoid these serious problems, I respectfully urge you and other Members of Congress to address this issue expeditiously and decide whether or not to extend the expired tax provisions. I recognize, of course, that it is up to Congress and the Administration to make this important policy decision. Nonetheless, I would appreciate

if you would share with your colleagues that it would be detrimental to the entire 2015 tax filing season and to millions of taxpayers if Congress fails to provide a clear policy direction before the end of November.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I am also writing to Congressmen Camp and Levin and Senator Hatch. If you have any questions, please contact me or a member of your staff may contact Leonard Oursler, Director, Legislative Affairs, at (202) 317-6985.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Koskinen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

John A. Koskinen