

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2025

Scott Bessent  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent,

We write to express our serious concern regarding reports that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) laid off nearly 7,000 of its 15,000 probationary employees without any notice to Congress about where these individuals are located or the divisions in which they work.<sup>1</sup> This is yet another example of the current administration's efforts to dramatically reduce the size of the federal workforce without taking into consideration its impact on the American people or our government's overall budget. As we are in the midst of this year's tax filing season, mass layoffs at the IRS will undoubtedly have negative consequences on tax administration and American taxpayers. Aside from the immediate harm and potential delays taxpayers will face, this is the first step in the administration's unlawful attempt to abolish the IRS.<sup>2</sup> A mass termination of IRS employees is unprecedented.

As you know, the IRS functions as the United States' main revenue collection agency. It ensures taxes are collected, fraud is investigated and prosecuted, refunds are timely paid, and taxpayers' questions are answered. An efficient and properly staffed IRS is necessary for carrying out these essential functions.

Terminating thousands of employees, without any due process, will not only disrupt IRS functions, but will have catastrophic consequences for these public servants and their families. Given the severity of the consequences of an understaffed IRS, we urge you to halt any further plans for mass firings.

Sincerely,



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Richard E. Neal  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Ways and Means



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Brian Faler, *Thousands of layoffs expected to start hitting the IRS on Thursday*, Politico, (February 20, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-irs-expected-fire-6700-employees-thursday-trump-downsizing-spree-2025-02-20/>

<sup>2</sup> Rebecca Falconer, *Commerce Secretary Lutnick: Trump's goal is to abolish the IRS*, AXIOS, (February 20, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/02/20/commerce-secretary-lutnick-irs-abolish>



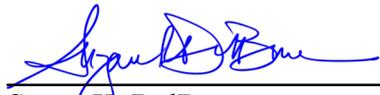
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



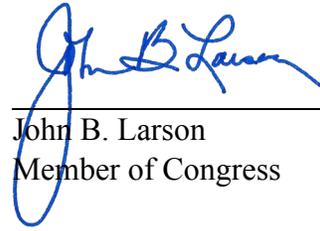
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

*Thomas R. Suozzi*

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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress