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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3204

March 17, 2020

**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, BORDER SECURITY, FACILITATION,
AND OPERATIONS
CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION, AND INNOVATION

**COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

We are writing to urge the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to extend the April 15th tax filing deadline and immediately release specific details on pending tax filing and payment relief for taxpayers.

The COVID-19 virus has hit New York State particularly hard. There is growing concern about the ability of the IRS to provide taxpayer assistance and the ability of taxpayers and tax professionals to meet the filing deadline of April 15th due to the outbreak in New York and across the country. Extending the tax filing deadline will help mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 for many individuals and businesses facing disruptions during this time.

We are aware that on March 11th, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and President Trump announced that the Administration plans to delay the April 15th tax deadline for certain individuals and small businesses affected by COVID-19. However, the IRS and the Treasury Department have yet to provide specific details on when the extended deadline will be implemented, how relief will be administered, and who it will cover.

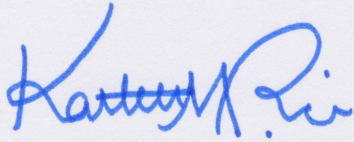
On March 17, Secretary Mnuchin and President Trump subsequently announced that taxpayers who owe the IRS will be granted a 90-day delay in making payments, but that the Administration is still encouraging taxpayers to file by the April 15 deadline. While payment relief for taxpayers is an important factor, extending the deadline along with payment and interest relief will be critical to alleviate the uncertainty about this year's tax filing season.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, the IRS has the authority to extend the time for filing any return for six months or less and the authority to waive certain penalties. Therefore, we urge the IRS to immediately use its authority to extend the time for filing any return or extension and provide relief from certain filing and payment penalties for taxpayers and communities affected by COVID-19.

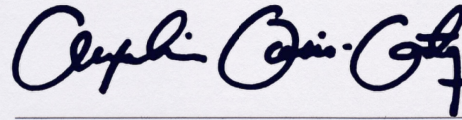


We are hopeful that the IRS will provide taxpayers with the necessary guidance and assistance during this uncertain and challenging time. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

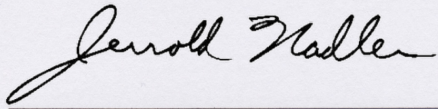
Sincerely,



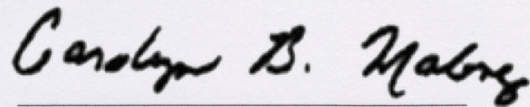
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



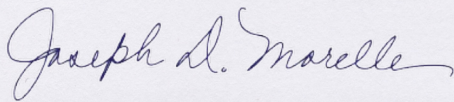
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



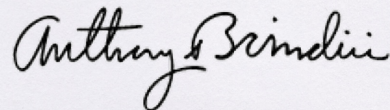
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



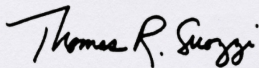
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



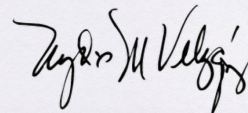
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



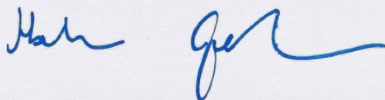
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



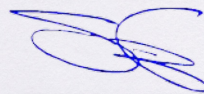
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress



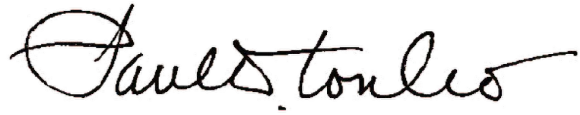
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



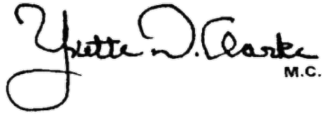
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

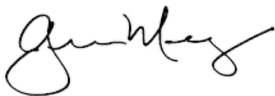


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

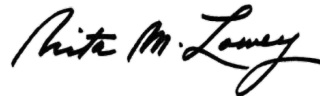


Peter T. King
Member of Congress

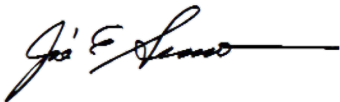
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress