

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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June 19, 2019

Mr. Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

It is our understanding that the IRS facility in Fresno, CA, will stop processing paper tax returns in September 2021. We are concerned about the impact on current IRS employees, including the potential elimination of 1,800 permanent, seasonal, and part-time jobs at the Fresno center. While we strongly believe the IRS should reconsider its plan to cease paper return processing operations in 2021 in Fresno, it is imperative that the Service finds ways to mitigate the adverse impact on the Fresno workforce and our local community.

Rather than mass layoffs, the IRS should consider transitioning impacted employees to roles supporting other functions currently being performed in Fresno, including Accounts Management, Compliance, Call-Sites, and Automated Collection System. Now is the opportunity to begin this realignment and ensure employees are fully trained and prepared for their new duties.

In addition to paper tax return processing, Fresno is home to a number of important functions, including customer service and enforcement operations. Transitioning impacted employees into these roles will not only expand the capacity of the IRS to carry out its enforcement and taxpayer service responsibilities, but also allow the Fresno facility to retain the expertise of its paper processing employees. These employees have provided years of services to the IRS and our country and have played a vital role in the administration of our nation's tax system. Rather than displacing them, the IRS should consider all opportunities to bring new work to Fresno and retain their valuable knowledge and experience.

Retaining the dedicated and experienced employees processing paper returns is critical in light of the dramatic cuts to the IRS workforce over the past 9 years. Since FY 2010, the IRS has lost more than 23,000 full-time employees, which is straining the ability of IRS employees to carry out their enforcement and taxpayer service responsibilities.

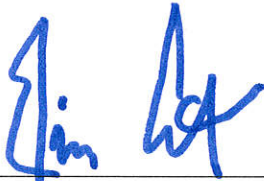
The aging of the IRS workforce is further exacerbating the dire staffing situation at the Service. More than 30 percent of the IRS workforce will be able to retire by 2020, presenting the Service with the difficult challenge of replacing thousands of workers and the institutional knowledge they take with them each year. The retirements of some of the

Service's most experienced personnel, including those working in Fresno, will only further stress the current IRS workforce already straining under a rising workload.

Finally, we ask that all affected workers be treated fairly and have access to career counseling services. The hardworking men and women at the Fresno facility have dedicated years of service to the IRS and the local community. They are skilled employees who are vital to our nation's tax system and our region's economy. It is important that they are provided with options to continue their careers at the IRS and receive priority standing when applying for positions with other federal agencies.

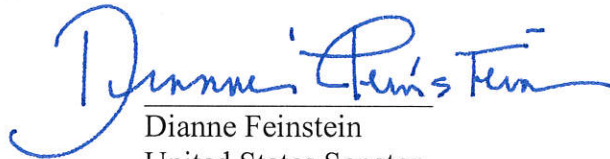
As we approach 2021, we look forward to working with you to identify additional opportunities for new work at the Fresno facility that minimizes the impact on the dedicated and experienced employees processing paper returns.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

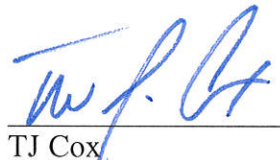
Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



TJ Cox  
Member of Congress