

United States Senate

September 7, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
111 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

I write to today regarding the dire situation the people of Louisiana are facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. Hurricane Laura is considered the strongest storm to develop in the Gulf of Mexico, leaving over 400,000 households without power and extensive damage throughout my state. Because of this, President Trump declared Louisiana a major disaster area, which has made available funding for state and local governments and allowed for individual assistance to families and business in desperate need. I appreciate the Internal Revenue Service's quick work to provide tax relief for families and businesses and request additional action to facilitate recovery in Louisiana.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans were able to postpone their federal tax filing to July 15, 2020, with an additional extension, if requested, to October 15, 2020. I ask that you further extend the filing date, postponing all filings for individuals and quarterly filings for businesses to December 31, 2020, and extend eligibility to those qualified for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. Furthermore, I ask that IRS to use its authority to expedite refunds for these taxpayers. As you know, expedited income tax refunds are available to any taxpayer in a federally declared disaster area. They do not require an Individual Assistance declaration, do not need to be repaid, and can be a relatively quick injection of cash for the hardest-hit families and businesses. Prioritizing the returns for disaster victims is an easy way to put money directly in the pocket of people across Louisiana during a time when they need it the most.

As many families and businesses pick up the pieces from Hurricane Laura, I ask you to use your authority to the fullest extent possible. Thank you for your work and commitment to facilitate recovery in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator