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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2308

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Danny Werfel
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Werfel:

I am writing to express strong concern about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decision requiring Minnesotans to pay federal taxes on their state tax rebates.

During the forced government shutdowns of the last few years, states could send money to their residents tax-free to alleviate some of their financial stress. On January 30, 2023, President Joe Biden stated that he would end the national emergencies related to COVID-19 on May 11, 2023. Although most states were able to get their affairs in order and provide rebates before May 11, the Minnesota Governor failed to sign legislation for tax rebates until May 23, 2023.

At a time when inflation and energy prices are crippling Minnesota families, making them choose between putting food on the table or gifts under the Christmas tree for their children, this tax rebate was meant to provide a little financial reprieve. This decision, however, could leave Minnesotans losing out on anywhere between $26 and $286. While this may seem like a nominal amount of money to some, to Minnesotans, every dollar counts.

Minnesota ranks sixth on the list of highest state income taxes. We share more taxpayer dollars with the federal government than we ever get back. I implore you to take stock of my constituents as good, hard-working people who should not be unduly punished for the failures and delays of their state leadership.

I ask that you reverse this decision immediately to prevent any further stress on my constituents.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress