

FRENCH HILL  
2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS



WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
1533 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-2506  
FAX: (202) 225-5903

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND CAPITAL  
MARKETS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
MONETARY POLICY  
RANKING MEMBER, ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE TASKFORCE  
RANKING MEMBER, FINTECH TASKFORCE

CONWAY DISTRICT OFFICE  
1105 DEER STREET, SUITE 12  
CONWAY, AR 72032  
PHONE: (501) 358-3481  
FAX: (501) 358-3494

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT OFFICE  
1501 NORTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 630  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207  
PHONE: (501) 324-5941  
FAX: (501) 324-6029

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

August 11, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20224-0001

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

I write today to inform you that your agency is the most recent recipient of my Golden Fleece Award. I am awarding the Golden Fleece to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for distributing Economic Impact Payments (EIP) to individuals not eligible for EIP.

Specifically, according to an August 5, 2020 report by *National Public Radio (NPR)*, “[t]housands of foreign workers who entered the U.S. on temporary work visas received \$1,200 [EIP] checks in error during the first round of stimulus payments,”<sup>1</sup> and it was reported that the exact amount of payments sent to foreign workers is “difficult to quantify.”<sup>2</sup> Section 2201 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act established the EIP and established qualifications that only citizens and resident aliens would be eligible for an EIP. Foreign workers on temporary work visas would not meet this requirement.

This is distressing news when considering in light of the fact that, in June, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that “Treasury and the [IRS] sent almost 1.1 million payments totaling nearly \$1.4 billion to deceased individuals.”<sup>3</sup> When we are in the midst of a pandemic that is causing intense strain on our economy, our federal agencies must be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. These recent reports raise concerns about your agency’s ability to properly distribute CARES Act EIPs without billions of dollars continuing to be sent out in error.

This is distressing also because numerous central Arkansans, the very individuals for whom we created this important EIP program, have not yet received their EIP, while non-qualifying individuals have. Further, to add insult to injury, your agency has not responded to my and my Congressional delegation colleagues from Arkansas’s requests to assist our constituents. This is unacceptable. I encourage your agency to improve its distribution of EIPs to qualifying Americans and to prevent improper payments of any kind.

<sup>1</sup> *National Public Radio*. “Foreign Workers Living Overseas Mistakenly Received \$1,200 U.S. Stimulus Checks.” Sacha Pfeiffer. August 5, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/05/898903600/foreign-workers-living-overseas-mistakenly-received-1-200-u-s-stimulus-checks>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Government Accountability Office. “Opportunities to Improve Federal Response and Recovery Efforts. GAO-20-625. June 25, 2020. <https://www.gao.gov/reports/GAO-20-625/>

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
August 11, 2020  
Page 2 of 2

Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. French Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

French Hill  
Member of Congress