

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Douglas Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of Treasury
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Shulman,

We write again out of concern for the many employees who process paper tax returns at the Internal Revenue Service facilities in Andover and Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Having written to you on this subject in the past, and having met with the employees working at this facility, we understand that many of these men and women may lose their jobs under the Agency's reorganization plan. We feel that the current state of our national economy requires that this plan be reconsidered.

Congress and the Administration are working to pass an economic stimulus measure that will hopefully serve as a crucial step in a concerted effort to help our economy recover. One of the main goals of this legislation is to create and save 3 to 4 million jobs this year. As a result, we feel that reducing the workforce at the paper processing facility in Andover is inappropriate at this time. This is especially true considering that the 2009 target reduction date was based on a projection that 80 percent of all federal tax returns would be filed electronically by 2007. This transition, however, has not occurred as quickly as projected. We urge you to adopt the IRS Oversight Board's recommendation to postpone the target date for reducing the workforce at Andover to 2012.

If you choose to go forward with the reduction in force, we strongly urge you to bring new work programs to the Andover Center so that the IRS is able to retain the knowledge and experience of the soon to be displaced employees that have dedicated so many years of service and talent to the IRS. Additionally, we ask that all workers, regardless of job classification have access to career support services at this difficult time.

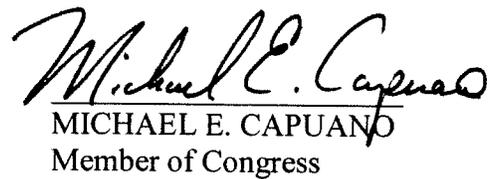
We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us or have your staff contact Celine McNicholas in Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' office at 202.225.3411.

Sincerely,


EDWARD M. KENNEDY
U.S. Senate

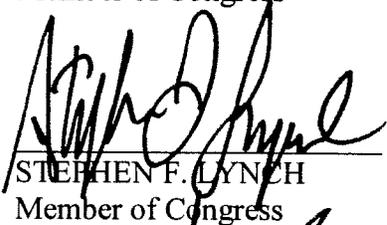

JOHN F. KERRY
U.S. Senate


NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress

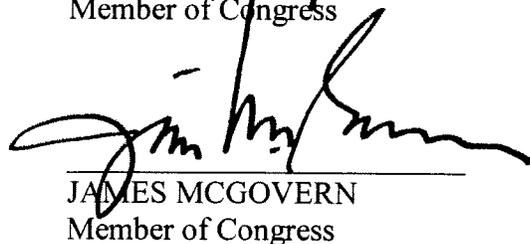

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress


WILLIAM DELAHUNT
Member of Congress

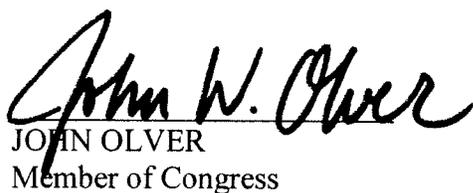

BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress

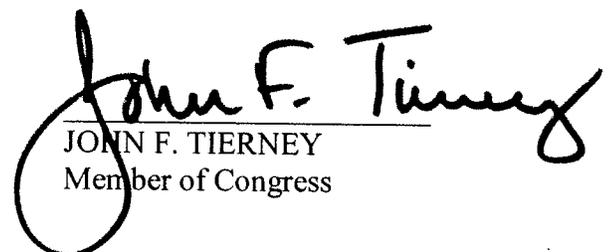

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

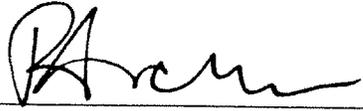

EDWARD MARKEY
Member of Congress


JAMES MCGOVERN
Member of Congress


RICHARD NEAL
Member of Congress


JOHN OLVER
Member of Congress


JOHN F. TIERNEY
Member of Congress



PAUL HODES
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



JEANNE SHAHEEN
U.S. Senate