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AND OCEANS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2009

Commissioner Douglas H. Shulman  
Internal Revenue Service  
Room 3000  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224-0002

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

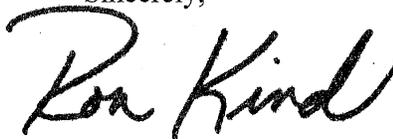
On February 23, 2009, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be mailing 9 million copies of new tax withholding tables to businesses in March. As you know, new withholding tables are needed due to the recently passed Making Work Pay Tax Credit that was included as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I brought this to the attention of IRS Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement Linda E. Stiff during a recent Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee hearing on IRS Assistance to Taxpayers Experiencing Economic Difficulties.

As of February 21, 2009, the new withholding tables were published on the IRS website. With almost universal access to the internet – whether at home, work, or the public library – I see no reason as to why printed tables must be mailed directly to employers. By utilizing electronic means for communication and document sharing, you can save taxpayers millions of dollars as well as help the environment by cutting down on paper use.

After taking into account the costs associated with printing, direct mailing, and truck distribution, the initial cost of mailing out these tables totals \$3,293,000. The IRS is currently using general printing funds to handle the mailings, but also has designated this printing project as “economic stimulus” and has requested stimulus funding for reimbursement. It is wasteful to spend more than \$3 million on needless direct paper mailings when the money could easily put to better use for hiring new employees at IRS. In an effort to cut back on government inefficiency and the waste of tax dollars, I urge you to reevaluate your publication methods and reconsider this unnecessary mailing.

I understand that when the nation is confronted with the type of economic crisis we currently find ourselves in, \$3 million seems small and insignificant. It may be a small amount, but any savings we can accrue are useful and should be examined. I look forward to your reply and working with you further on this and many other issues.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

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