



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: House Rule XI Request for a Special Meeting

Dear Chairman Smith,

We write to request that you immediately call a special meeting of the Committee on Ways and Means and invite Acting Commissioner Scott Bessent of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to discuss agency operations amid alarming reports regarding employee furloughs and the Administration's reported plans to target taxpayers based on political beliefs.

Americans all across this country are experiencing the hardship and growing chaos created by an out-of-control President with an out-of-touch agenda under one-party Republican rule in Washington. This extends to the dismantling of key government agencies providing essential services to Americans. As you know, the IRS furloughed nearly one-half of its employees (over 34,000 federal workers) and sent reduction-in-force (RIF) notices. Despite requests, the IRS has refused to provide any information on the specifics (numerical breakdown by state, campus location, etc.) of these actions. Without this information, the Committee does not know how the furloughs and RIF notices are affecting refund delays, processing backlogs, and taxpayer services around the country.

Further, there are media reports that the Administration is preparing sweeping changes at the IRS criminal-investigative division that would allow the agency to pursue inquiries of Democratic donors and groups, including a list of potential targets.¹ As you know, Section 7217 of the Internal Revenue Code prohibits the President and members of his executive office from requesting or directing the IRS to target any particular taxpayer, whether an individual or an organization. The Committee, as a whole, has made clear in the past that taxpayers should not be targeted based on political beliefs.

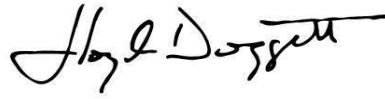
¹ [Exclusive | Trump Team Plans IRS Overhaul to Enable Pursuit of Left-Leaning Groups - WSJ](#)

Given these urgent matters, we request that you immediately call a special meeting of the Committee pursuant to clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI to obtain needed answers regarding these urgent matters.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member



The Honorable Lloyd Doggett



The Honorable Mike Thompson



The Honorable John B. Larson



The Honorable Danny K. Davis



The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez



The Honorable Terri A. Sewell



The Honorable Suzan DelBene



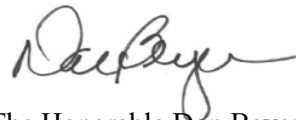
The Honorable Judy Chu



The Honorable Gwen Moore



The Honorable Brendan Boyle



The Honorable Don Beyer



The Honorable Dwight Evans



The Honorable Brad Schneider



The Honorable Jimmy Panetta



The Honorable Jimmy Gomez



The Honorable Steven Horsford



The Honorable Tom Suozzi