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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

April 12, 2012

The Honorable Douglas H. Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

As the deadline for individuals to file their tax returns approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to call on the IRS to address the issue of tax fraud by identity theft.

As you are well aware, this crime has been particularly prevalent in the Tampa Bay region that I have the privilege to represent. Several of my constituents have been victims of identity theft and I thank you and your staff for your efforts to help resolve their cases.

Tax season is stressful enough without the threat of identity theft. The taxpayers we work for should not have to worry that their identity has been stolen while they are complying with the law and simply filing their tax returns.

Victims of identity theft can also experience significant delays in receiving their refunds, depriving them of money that many were counting on to help in these difficult economic times. Often, these innocent citizens are left with no idea of when they will be able to get the refund that is rightly theirs.

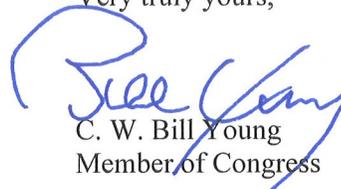
At a time when the federal government is again projected to run a deficit of more than \$1 trillion, we should not be paying out fraudulent tax refunds to identity thieves. The IRS should do everything in its power to prevent this crime and quickly assist victims. If the IRS requires additional statutory authority to take these steps, I would urge you to work with the Congress to find appropriate solutions.

To this end, I ask that you to respond to the following questions:

1. What actions has the IRS taken in this tax filing season to address the growing number of tax-related identity theft cases?
2. How can the IRS better focus its resources to deal with identity theft and assist victims?
3. What steps has the IRS taken to ensure the timely issuance of refunds to victims of identity theft?
4. How can the IRS better work with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and prosecute identity thieves while protecting the privacy of victims?

Again, thank you for your work to help the victims of tax-related identity theft and your prompt reply to these questions. With best wishes and personal regards, I am.

Very truly yours,


C. W. Bill Young
Member of Congress