

May 20, 2025

Dear Chair Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations—representing millions of people across America—we write to strongly oppose the confirmation of Billy Long to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Mr. Long’s complete lack of relevant experience, recent participation in scandal-plagued tax avoidance schemes, and history of favoring the dismantlement of the very agency he’s proposed to lead, make him deeply unqualified for the job.

Mr. Long has no training in either tax law, accounting, or tax administration. He has also never managed an organization as large as the IRS, home to a nearly 80,000 person workforce which is also in turmoil as a result of the Administration’s rampant attacks against federal workers. Without any relevant experience, there is no evidence to suggest that Mr. Long has the ability to honestly serve taxpayers and ensure that everyone is following the law and paying what they owe.

One of the integral functions of the IRS is to crack down on tax evasion which is not only illegal, but drains necessary revenue and is a slap in the face to workers and families who pay their fair share. Yet Mr. Long has very recently been heavily involved in at least two tax-reduction schemes that are rife with fraud. He’s promoted pandemic-era employer tax credits [that have been widely abused](#), and been associated with firms peddling nonexistent [“tribal tax credits.”](#) Long falsely claimed that “everybody qualifies” for the employer credit, and pursued a \$3.6 million payout for a company that ultimately dropped its claim because it realized it was ineligible.

And if peddling fake tax credits weren’t enough to discredit Mr. Long, several individuals connected with both schemes were among the recent contributors to the campaign committee of Long’s unsuccessful Senate race in 2022. Those late donations, made after Long was nominated to run the agency that would police such schemes, allowed Long to [pay himself back \\$130,000](#) he had loaned his own campaign. There is no reason the Senate should entertain the nomination of someone who has deployed multiple schemes in attempts to make money by ripping off taxpayers.

Mr. Long’s legislative history while in the House is also disqualifying. He [co-sponsored a bill](#) to abolish the agency he now desires to lead, in addition to the bill eliminating the income and estate taxes and replacing them with a [30% national sales tax](#). This “flat tax” idea would reduce taxes on high incomes and family fortunes and instead institute a sales tax that would impose higher taxes on the poor and working families. The flat tax would make our tax system less fair and hand trillions of dollars in tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires. But at the bare minimum, Mr. Long owes Americans an honest, direct answer as to why he believes he should lead an agency he doesn’t think should exist.

Mr. Long's lack of experience, involvement in influence peddling schemes, and support for destroying the institutions he now desires to lead are obvious disqualifications. Senators must search their conscience and reject this obviously inept individual to be IRS Commissioner. For all the above reasons we urge you to reject Mr. Long's confirmation.

Sincerely,

Americans for Tax Fairness

20/20 Vision

Accountable.US/Accountable.NOW

Advancing CT Together

AFT

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Americans for Financial Reform

Catholics Vote Common Good

Coalition on Human Needs

Economic Security Project Action

Family Values @ Work Action

Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition

Indivisible

Indivisible Marin

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

MomsRising

National Women's Law Center Action Fund

Northwest Progressive Institute

Patriotic Millionaires

Project On Government Oversight

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Citizen

Responsible Wealth

Service Employees International Union

Take on Wall Street

United for a Fair Economy

Voices for Progress

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee