

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2006

The Honorable John Snow
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Mark Everson
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Snow and Commissioner Everson:

We write to express our concern with proposed rules published in the December 8th, 2005, Federal Register by the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service that would remove current privacy protections that forbid accountants and other tax preparers from re-selling information obtained from individual tax returns.

This proposed weakening of the privacy guidelines that currently govern the reselling of tax return information is a significant one that defies the label provided in the Federal Register notice, which characterized the change as "not a significant regulatory change."

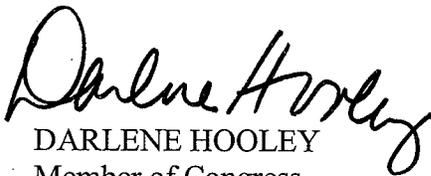
Any potential benefit to consumers from the re-selling of their most sensitive personal financial information would certainly be lost, if weakened privacy guidelines increase their vulnerability to identity theft.

At a time when breaches of data security have been widespread across numerous sectors of industry, including multiple data brokers, we are reluctant to support changes that weaken the privacy safeguards that protect the sensitive personal financial information of American taxpayers.

We also have serious reservations about the possible negative implications the proposed rules could have on taxpayer confidence and their expectations of privacy. The proposed re-selling of information gathered from voluntary tax returns poses a threat to the trust and confidentiality that is expected between consumers, their tax preparers, and the Internal Revenue Services.

We ask that you reconsider the proposed rules published in the December 8th, 2005, Federal Register governing the "updating of Section 7216 regulations." Your prompt action on this matter will ensure that taxpayer privacy is maintained and reduce the risk that sensitive personal financial information will fall into the hands of would be criminals.

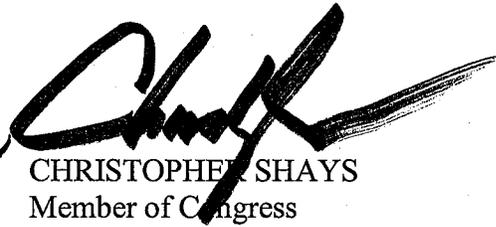
Sincerely,


DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress

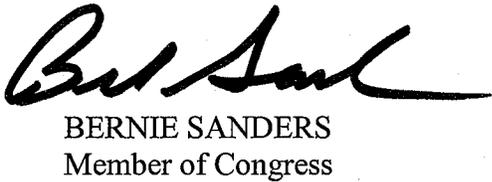

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Member of Congress



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



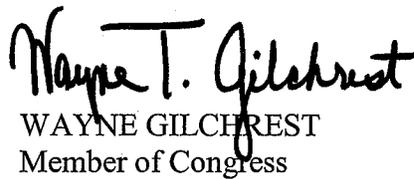
BERNIE SANDERS
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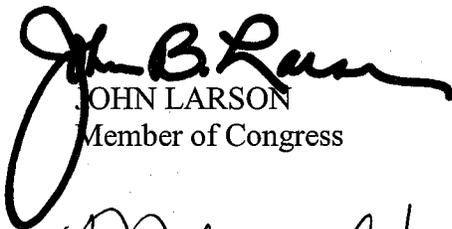
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



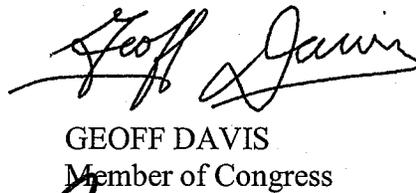
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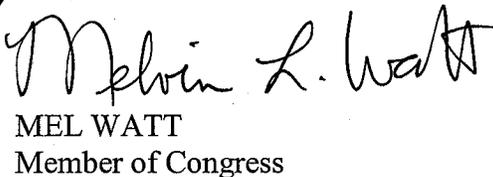
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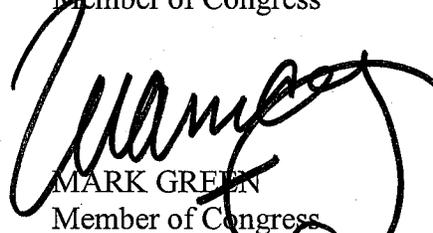
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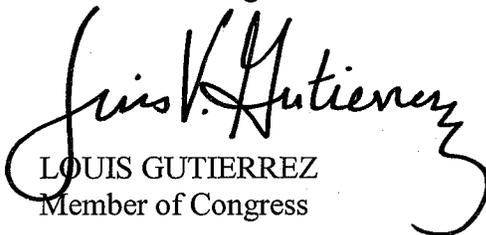
GEOFF DAVIS
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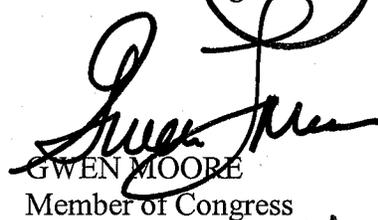
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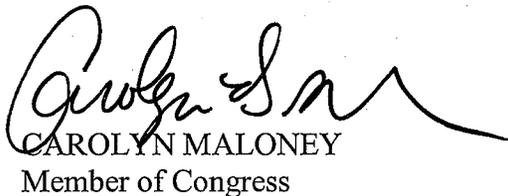
MARK GREEN
Member of Congress



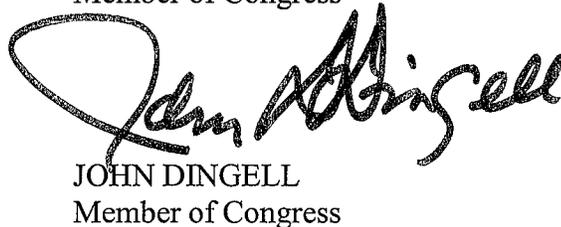
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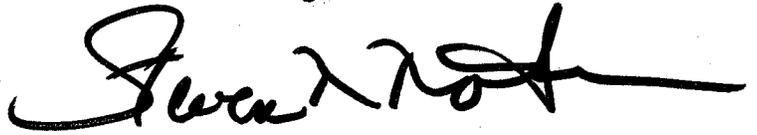
SAM FARR
Member of Congress



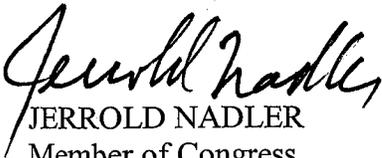
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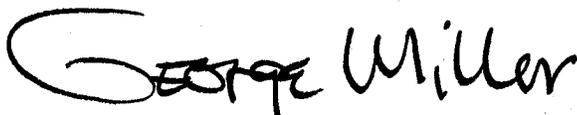
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