



COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

March 25, 2005

The Honorable Jim Cooper  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am responding to the January 31, 2005, letter from you and your colleagues encouraging us to implement the split refund proposal for the 2005 tax season. Thank you for writing to express your interest in this important program.

I agree that the split refund initiative is a great opportunity for many Americans to save. We are working toward making this program available as quickly as possible but unfortunately cannot implement it until the 2007 filing season (corresponding to tax year 2006). I have instructed my staff to form an implementation committee to resolve a number of complex information systems and administrative issues to ensure a successful program rollout.

The committee will address a variety of issues, such as adding a new schedule to the tax forms, programming our computers, and testing the changes. In addition, we must work closely with the Financial Management Service, which is responsible for disbursing tax refunds, to ensure both agencies' systems changes are compatible so refunds will be deposited to the proper accounts. The committee will face a rigorous agenda to resolve these issues and meet the 2007 deadline.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further. If you have any questions, please call me, or Floyd Williams, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 622-3720 to arrange a briefing. I am also writing to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark W. Everson".

Mark W. Everson