



September 28, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
IRS Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

The IPA<sup>[1]</sup> and the ATPC<sup>[2]</sup> write today to express key learnings we gathered from the distribution of Economic Impact Payments (EIP) earlier this year. We share these findings in hopes that they can assist the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS), should Congress authorize another round of economic stimulus measures, including additional EIPs, to assist individual Americans, small businesses, healthcare providers, and schools before the end of the year. If Congress does pass a relief bill, Treasury and IRS will once again be leading the federal government's efforts to ensure that the funds authorized by Congress make it into the hands of individual Americans as quickly and safely as possible.

As you may know, during this difficult time the prepaid card industry has played a critical role in helping connect individual Americans and businesses with critically needed economic support from federal and state entities. Accordingly, we recently had the opportunity to connect with the IRS staff to explore ways the industry might support the IRS's goal of building upon their success of distributing over \$267 billion to over 159 million Americans earlier this year. As your teams prepare for another potential economic stimulus and support package to help the American people through our current national crisis, we request that you consider the following:

- Designate EIP payments as such in the ACH record, so that payment processors can distinguish EIP payments from all other ACH payments;
- Continue to leverage the [Direct Express](#), [U.S. Debit](#), and other federal disbursement programs;

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<sup>[1]</sup> The IPA is a trade organization that serves as the leading voice of the electronic payments sector, including prepaid products, mobile wallets, and person-to-person (P2P) technology for consumers, businesses and governments at all levels. The IPA's goal is to encourage efficient use of electronic payments, cultivate financial inclusion through educating and empowering consumers, represent the industry before legislative and regulatory bodies, and provide thought leadership. The comments made in this letter do not necessarily represent the position of all members of the IPA.

<sup>[2]</sup> The ATPC was created to protect, promote and preserve the interests of this critical Georgia and American industry through proactive public relations and government affairs activities. In addition, the ATPC works with member companies, community leaders, and government officials to raise the profile of the payments processing industry in a positive light.



- Continue to utilize the [Non-Filers](#), and [Get My Payment](#) portals; and
- Expand and encourage the use of electronic payments by updating the IRS's FAQs on the IRS website to make it clearer that Americans who have prepaid accounts can register their accounts, alongside savings and checking accounts, to receive a faster EIP payment.

We believe these steps will help the agency distribute relief funds more efficiently and allow Americans to immediately access their benefits.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Treasury Department and IRS for their thoughtfulness, diligence, and dedication to the American people during this national crisis. Additionally, we appreciate your leadership during this extraordinary time. Please know the members of the payments community stand ready to work with each of you to make sure that the economic support approved by Congress reaches its intended recipients. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. West Richards", written over a horizontal line.

H. West Richards  
Executive Director  
ATPC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Tate", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Tate  
President & CEO  
IPA