July 1, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned organizations representing millions of taxpayers and consumers across the nation, ask you to oppose an added $40 billion for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the latest infrastructure agreement. While billed by proponents of the deal as beefing up "enforcement," the agency's recent actions have given the American people no reason to believe this infusion of funds would be spent wisely.

A handful of members of Congress and the Biden administration have agreed on a trillion-dollar infrastructure package, yet questions remain as to how this gargantuan bill will be paid for. Some have suggested that an increased role for the IRS in targeting tax "cheats" would go a long way toward financing infrastructure spending. While seeking a pay-for is a noble goal and one we believe policymakers should pursue, using IRS enforcement to pay for open-ended government spending will create more problems than it solves.

In 2013, the nation discovered that the IRS had targeted certain groups – a number of whom have co-signed this letter – for increased audit scrutiny based on their political beliefs. The agency conducted a keyword search to single out conservative and even some left-of-center groups for this scrutiny. In 2017, the IRS settled the lawsuit against them, admitting their actions were wrongful.

Despite this admission, there is little indication the IRS has learned its lesson. In just the last month, agency employees illegally leaked the tax information of private individuals to the media. Given the prominence of the individuals whose records were released, there is little doubt this move was politically motivated. The individual or group of individuals responsible has still not been held accountable for the leak.

The new money dedicated to the IRS under the infrastructure plan would involve the agency intensifying their focus on certain groups. Given the agency's history and even most recent actions, this should concern the nation. The First Amendment right to free speech is foundational to our republican system. The IRS has proven to be an obstacle to that bedrock principle, and should not be allowed to expand its activities unchecked until significant reforms have been achieved.

This plan to expand the IRS authorizes $40 billion in new spending while only generating $100 billion in added revenue. Even these optimistic estimates are a small fraction of the bill's total cost. This is a miniscule benefit when considering the immense risks outlined above. It is for these reasons that we ask you to vocally oppose this expenditure when considering the infrastructure bill.

Sincerely,

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Tom Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against Government
Waste

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

Garrett Bess
Vice President
Heritage Action for America

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment

Ryan Ellis
President
Center for a Free Economy

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Andrew F. Quinlan
President
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

David McIntosh
President
Club for Growth

Maureen Blum
Executive Director
USA Workforce Coalition

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President
60 Plus Association