



## PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

*An Association for Federal Managers and Management Officials*

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January 9, 2018

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The Professional Managers Association (PMA) represents the interests of professional managers, management officials, and non-bargaining unit employees in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other federal agencies.

As Congress negotiates government funding prior to the expiration of the current continuing resolution, and in light of the recent passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, PMA urges Congress to take a fresh look at IRS funding levels, recognizing that the IRS is responsible for bringing in over 93% of federal receipts. PMA is concerned that passage of the tax overhaul will mean increasing the strain on agency personnel and resources that are already stretched much too thin. This is particularly relevant at a time when the agency is nearly \$1 billion below its 2010 funding levels, and with attacks on the agency seemingly ongoing. Americans deserve to be able to have their tax questions answered in a timely basis and be ensured the security of their sensitive financial information – and Congress must fund the IRS accordingly to meet these citizen expectations.

New tax laws inevitably lead to a number of foreseeable outcomes, including increased technological and manpower needs to implement the new rules, the development of new forms, and the reconfiguration of existing systems. Perhaps most notably, any sweeping tax change ensures a proportional increase in the number of calls the IRS can reasonably expect to field from citizens seeking clarification as to how the new rules impact their own tax filings.

The IRS will need to take on these challenges even as civil servants within the agency are already in the throes of preparations for the 2018 tax season, and they will need to do so having lost not only ~\$1 billion in the past 7 years, but 20,000 full-time employees.

The repercussions of placing increased demands upon ever-dwindling agency resources have already begun to appear, with the IRS conducting fewer audits in 2017 than at any other point in the last 14 years. The tax gap, the difference between the taxes people and businesses owe and what they pay, already exceeds well \$400 billion. Ensuring the legislative mandates coming out of Congress are accompanied by the corresponding amount of resources necessary to carry out the mandates is not only a matter of good governance benefitting the American taxpayer, it directly ensures the IRS is not leaving owed money on the table due to being insufficiently equipped to appropriately complete its mission.

Thank you for considering PMA's perspective. Please contact our Washington Representative, Ben Carnes ([bcarnes@shawbransford.com](mailto:bcarnes@shawbransford.com); 202-463-8400), if PMA can be of further assistance to any of you on this or other federal employment matters.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Burger  
Executive Director