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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4303

COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SECURITY

DEPUTY WHIP

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

COMMISSIONER:
U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT
COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

REGENT:
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Douglas H. Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

As a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, I am writing to request that the IRS increase the 2012 optional standard mileage rates in the event gas prices should hit an all-time record high.

Currently gas prices are at record highs for this time of the year and expectations are growing that gas prices will continue to soar towards and exceed the all-time record high set in 2008 in the coming weeks. As you probably know, back in 2008 when gas prices hit an all-time high of \$4.16¹, the IRS increased the business mileage rate from 50.5 cents a mile to 58.5 cents a mile for the last six months of the year.

While I am appreciative that the IRS heeded my call last year to increase the mileage rates in order to provide relief from surging gas prices, I strongly believe that it should do so again if prices set a new all-time high. When announcing last June's decision that increased the mileage rate for businesses from 51.0 cents a mile to 55.5 cents a mile you said: "The IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the recent increase in gas prices."

At the end of the day, taxpayers, especially small businesses, want, need and deserve this common-sense relief should gas prices hit a record high.

I appreciate your consideration of my request, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

¹ EIA data for all formulations, all grades of gasoline during the first week of July 2008.