

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2016

The Honorable John Koskinen
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Koskinen:

Record rain levels fell on Missouri, resulting in widespread flooding and an emergency declaration from President Obama for 73 counties and the City of St. Louis under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act. Because of the extensive damage to the region, a federal disaster declaration from the President is expected in the coming days. The losses to the region are still being calculated, but there is no question that the damage is substantial.

I urge the Internal Revenue Service to use its authority under Section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to grant tax relief for the impacted counties as soon as possible following the federal disaster declaration. While they assess the damage to their homes, businesses, and communities, individuals who reside in or own a business in these counties will need an extension of their tax filing deadlines. Furthermore, taxpayers will benefit from a temporary pause on the accrual of interest, penalties, and related amounts owed.

I further ask that you help us work with Missourians so that they can claim the full relief made available to them by the Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Service is often a valuable partner after a natural disaster. Current tax law allows taxpayers to claim their disaster losses in the immediately preceding tax year, instead of waiting to file their net losses with their 2016 tax year returns. Please work with your many partners in Missouri so that residents are aware of this benefit when they prepare to file their tax return. My office is prepared to assist with whatever may be required.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator