July 20, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin

Secretary of the Treasury

U.S. Department of Treasury

500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,

Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

The IPA[[1]](#footnote-1) would like to thank you for your leadership in helping individual Americans, small businesses, and others navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the IPA commends the unsung heroes who work at the Department of Treasury (Treasury), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Bureau of Fiscal Service (BFS) for accepting the seemingly impossible and unprecedented challenge of distributing nearly $250 billion in Economic Impact Payments (EIP) authorized by the CARES Act in less than two months.

Looking ahead, the IPA recognizes that Congress may decide that another round of direct relief payments to individuals is appropriate. If that does occur, the prepaid industry stands ready to ensure that relief payments make it into the hands of Americans quickly, securely, and conveniently.

Accordingly, the IPA also respectfully requests that Treasury and IRS again utilize all available resources, including, existing government disbursement programs ([Direct Express](https://www.usdirectexpress.com/), [U.S. Debit](https://fiscal.treasury.gov/us-debit-card/#:~:text=Vendor%20Payment%20Guidance-,U.S.%20Debit%20Card,debit%20card%20for%20the%20payee.)) as well as online portals ([Non-Filers](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.irs.gov_coronavirus_non-2Dfilers-2Denter-2Dpayment-2Dinfo-2Dhere&d=DwMGaQ&c=4JOzdpIlQcN5fHQL_PMhCQ&r=PpMj5_wsh5Q_yDq9rpMx8JOyrpBQE5jrBN94CH81sbA&m=TyGkuaIZGKOQRQ-Pq08Z4wmXHZOMObw9_V-bN7VPOIY&s=D617q_NTFcdHBI_mMgCmzIn08jCeChvwtxOzNEC9ym0&e=) and [Get My Payment](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.irs.gov_coronavirus_get-2Dmy-2Dpayment&d=DwMGaQ&c=4JOzdpIlQcN5fHQL_PMhCQ&r=PpMj5_wsh5Q_yDq9rpMx8JOyrpBQE5jrBN94CH81sbA&m=TyGkuaIZGKOQRQ-Pq08Z4wmXHZOMObw9_V-bN7VPOIY&s=pFSBlx_Fs2LFdxrIZP-FMVdZghXEnzVY57EskveiJ88&e=)) which are easily accessible to the general public. Collectively, these programs enabled millions of Americans to receive payments directly or to register their bank accounts (checking, savings, and prepaid[[2]](#footnote-2)) with the IRS so they could receive their EIP electronically. We believe that disbursing emergency support funds through as many channels as possible will help reduce the burden on the federal government and increase the velocity in which payments make their way into eligible recipients’ accounts.

In conclusion, we appreciate your leadership during this extraordinarily challenging time, and the payments community stands ready to work with the Treasury Department and the IRS to help American consumers receive their relief funds as quickly as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Tate

President and CEO

IPA

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1. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See IPA’s April 2020 letter urging IRS to update its online portals to clearly list prepaid cards as a viable option (alongside checking and savings accounts) in regard to receiving Economic Impact Payments. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)