

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

An article recently appeared in *ProPublica* on tax payments by wealthy taxpayers, which identified, by name, certain taxpayers and purported to reveal their confidential tax return information.<sup>1</sup>

The article indicates that “ProPublica is not disclosing how it obtained the data, which was given to us in raw form, with no conditions or conclusions,” but the article characterizes the data as “IRS files,” “IRS information,” and “IRS records.” I am concerned as to how raw tax return data may have been obtained and whether the data could have come from the IRS, recognizing that other entities also have access to tax return information. If there is any indication that the confidential data came from the IRS, I would like to know.

Further, I would appreciate learning what investigations are underway with respect to the source of the data and any other information you can provide to me at this time. When available, I would like a report on the IRS’s findings and an update on any actions resulting from your investigations.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr., *Chair*  
Subcommittee on Oversight

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<sup>1</sup> Jesse Eisinger, Jeff Ernsthause, and Paul Kiel, “The Secret IRS Files: Trove of Never-Before-Seen Records Reveal How the Wealthiest Avoid Income Tax,” *ProPublica* (June 8, 2021), <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-secret-irs-files-trove-of-never-before-seen-records-reveal-how-the-wealthiest-avoid-income-tax>.