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

October 3, 2017

Dear Commissioner Koskinen:

It has come to my attention that on September 30th your agency awarded a sole source contract to Equifax to "verify taxpayer identity" and "assist in ongoing identity verification and validations." I was initially under the impression that my staff was sharing a copy of the Onion, until I realized this story was, in fact, true.

As I'm sure you are aware, Equifax is the firm that appears to have been grossly negligent in allowing a massive data hack of the personal information of 145 million Americans. What's more, this news was public in early September, giving your agency plenty of time to re-evaluate this decision. As a result, I am shocked that the IRS would contract with this firm for activities that they are clearly unfit to carry out.

Please share with me the materials you used for the internal deliberations regarding this contract, and the rationale to award this activity to Equifax.

It is deeply ironic and saddening that today Equifax's now ex-CEO testified to the Energy and Commerce Committee: "I am here today to say to each and every person affected by this breach, I am truly and deeply sorry for what happened."

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Commissioner John Koskinen
Internal Revenue Service

c/o Leonard Oursler
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