

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2007

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Brownback:

We write to express our interest in preventing closure of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) installations in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts until the IRS certifies that it has investigated the possibility of transferring current employees into new IRS positions within their commuting area. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

Employees at IRS facilities in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have expressed concerns about an IRS plan to reduce the workforce at the IRS Service Centers in Philadelphia and Andover. We share these concerns. At the same time that IRS is eliminating these positions, it is attempting to proceed with a plan to outsource collection of owed taxes to private contractors.

In light of this situation, we respectfully request your assistance in blocking closure of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) installations in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts until the IRS submits a formal report to Congress. The purpose of the report would be to review the potential for retraining and transferring submission processing employees currently employed at the Philadelphia and Andover Service Centers to Automated Collection System (ACS) positions within their commuting area. To achieve this end, we respectfully requesting insertion of the following language into the fiscal 2008 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill:

No funds made available by this or any other Act may be used for any purpose related to the reduction or elimination of submission processing activities, including reductions in force, at the IRS Philadelphia or Andover Service Centers until the IRS has submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees a detailed report that reviews the potential for transferring submission processing employees currently employed at the Philadelphia and Andover Service Centers to Automated Collection System (ACS) positions within their commuting area. The report shall include:

- *An estimate of additional ACS positions that could be funded, including training costs, by the \$7.35 million FY 2008 Administration budget request for private collection agencies;*

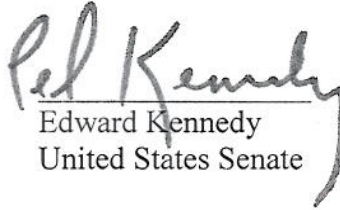
- *An estimate of the increased collections in FY 2008 and from FY 2008 through FY 2012 due to these increased ACS positions;*
- *A study of placing these additional positions in the Philadelphia and Andover Service Centers.*

In closing, please let us take this opportunity to thank you and the other members of your Subcommittee for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly or have your staff contact Nathan Steinwald on Senator Casey's staff at 224-6324.

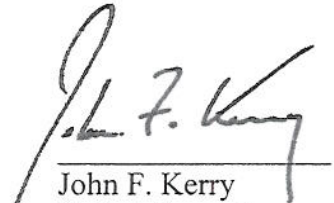
Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate



Edward Kennedy
United States Senate



John F. Kerry
United States Senate