

**Opening Statement of Mr. William Long**  
**Nominee to serve as Commissioner of Internal Revenue**  
**United States Senate Committee on Finance**  
**May 20, 2025**

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden and members of this Committee, I am honored and humbled to sit before you today as the nominee for Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to President Trump for placing his confidence in me to lead this vital agency.

My unique life experience has shaped my understanding of how the government operates and the importance of fairness and integrity.

I intend to use these experiences to bring transformational change to the IRS.

I also recognize the importance of bipartisanship when it comes to this agency. Just like I intend to make every taxpayer's experience better regardless of ideological belief, I intend to work with all members of Congress collaboratively to achieve our shared goals.

A modern tax collection agency is one of the most crucial services a government can provide to its people.

As our nation grows, we must be diligent in making continuous improvements, while also ensuring the agency is kind and understanding to its constituents.

If confirmed, I will implement a comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing the IRS, but also one that develops a new culture at the agency.

I am eager to implement the necessary changes to maximize our effectiveness, while also remaining transparent with both Congress and taxpayers.

It is important to also recognize the dedicated professionals currently at the IRS whose hard work too often goes unnoticed.

It is my pledge that we will invest in retaining skilled members of the team.

This does not mean a bloated agency, but an efficient one where employees have the tools they need to succeed.

As is said at every hearing regarding the IRS, the agency's technology is dangerously out of date, and I will make it a priority to modernize our operations.

I want to instill our new culture in every IRS office, and make sure the dedicated employees in these facilities know that IRS leadership truly cares about them.

Before concluding, I would like to turn back to a word I mentioned at the beginning of my statement – integrity.

To me, that means doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

A lot has been said about me in the media over the last several months, and several members of this Committee have sent letters and made very public statements to damage my character before they even had a chance to meet me.

Since departing Congress, I went back to my small-business roots. For over 30 years I was a small-business owner. I know how hard it is to succeed and keep your business afloat.

I think that is what makes me well suited for this position – I understand how to fight for the little guy, because I was the little guy.

I have always maintained that same level of integrity. It is something I am very proud of and will bring with me to the IRS.

We have a lot of work to do at the IRS – let's get to work.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.