



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I write in reply to your April 21, 2020 letter, which cites a story that inaccurately suggests Economic Impact Payments were delayed. Your letter also asks a series of questions about the inclusion of the President's name on checks being issued to deliver Economic Impact Payment to hardworking Americans.

As shown on the enclosed sample check image, which we shared with your office on April 20, the President's name—and not his signature—is included as part of the text in the memorandum line on paper checks for Economic Impact Payments. Secretary Mnuchin, following consultation with the Office of General Counsel, decided that the inclusion of the President's name on the checks was appropriate and directed Department of the Treasury officials, including at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, to implement his decision. As Treasury has stated publicly, checks are being issued on time, as planned. Again, this decision has had no impact on the timing of issuance of these checks. We can confirm that the Department is able to issue at least five million checks a week, and we also expect payments to be made via debit cards to certain eligible individuals for whom direct deposit information is unavailable. We do not have adequate access to records of U.S. checks or drafts to answer your question about inclusion of the names of U.S. Presidents on such instruments, but we are not immediately aware of such inclusions. Consistent with Secretary Mnuchin's prior public statements, your references to Treasury Directive 16-23 are not applicable.


Sincerely,

Frederick W. Vaughan
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley

Sample Economic Impact Payment Check Front

United States Treasury ¹⁵⁻⁵¹/₀₀₀ B 158,644,602

Check No. 

03 30 20 20201234 KANSAS CITY, MO 4041 03302020
000011112222 4041 03302020 I 20200123456789

Pay to the order of **JOHN DOE**
1234 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN USA 12345

\$**VOID*00**

VOID AFTER ONE YEAR

REGIONAL DISBURSING OFFICER
008
Vera S. Robinson

012345

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT
PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

⑈ 404 44 ⑈ ⑆000000518⑆ 033020206⑈ 040320

Sample Economic Impact Payment Check Back

WARNING - DO NOT CASH CHECK WITHOUT NOTING WATERMARK

HOLD TO LIGHT TO VERIFY WATERMARK

Forgery of endorsements on Treasury Checks is a Federal crime. Maximum penalty is a \$10,000 fine and ten years imprisonment. (8-97)