DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

March 11, 2008

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As part of our effort to implement the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is sending letters to millions of Americans alerting them to the stimulus payments authorized under the law. These letters will be sent to all households that filed income tax returns with the IRS last year, reminding taxpayers that they must file a 2007 tax return to qualify for a 2008 stimulus payment. The mailing of these letters will be completed by the second week of March, using the funding that Congress provided to the IRS for this purpose.

As you know, the economic stimulus payments are available to certain other individuals who may not have to file a 2007 tax return, including some senior citizens and veterans. The IRS is working closely with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs and many private-sector entities to do everything possible, including a special mailing later this month, to inform these individuals of this important payment.

I am writing to ask for your help in making sure your constituents are aware of the Economic Stimulus Act and understand that they must file a 2007 tax return to qualify for their payment, even if they do not otherwise have a tax liability. The upcoming district/state work period will be a particularly timely opportunity to get the word out about the stimulus payments, especially to senior citizens, veterans, and other low-income Americans who will benefit from the stimulus.

To that end, I encourage you to consider various avenues to inform your constituents about the stimulus payments, including:

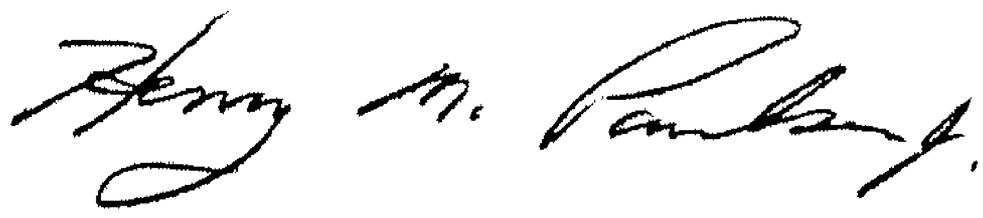
- A special mailing or adding information in your regular newsletter;
- Highlighting the stimulus payments on your website;
- Urging local radio and television stations and newspapers to make regular announcements publicizing the need to file and how to do it;
- Working with local veterans organizations to alert veterans to this benefit and the need to file a 2007 tax return;
- Placing materials at local senior centers to help senior citizens file tax returns reflecting their Social Security benefits in order to qualify for stimulus payments; and
- Reaching out to local civic and religious organizations to ask them to get the word out.

The IRS website contains a broad array of information at the top of its webpage (www.irs.gov) including fact sheets, frequently asked questions, as well as special information for senior citizens and veterans. I encourage you and your constituents to draw on this resource.

With your help, I am confident that we can reach the estimated 130 million households that qualify for this important payment. By maximizing the number of eligible Americans who receive a stimulus payment, we will increase the impact of the stimulus plan on our economy by this summer.

Thank you for your assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,



Henry M. Paulson, Jr.