Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2025

The Honorable William Long Commissioner Internal Revenue Service 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Long,

We write to express our concern regarding *Revenue Ruling 2024-14* and the tax uncertainty it has created for law-abiding taxpayers. While we support strong enforcement against abusive tax schemes, this particular ruling – issued under the prior administration – applies a flawed interpretation of the economic substance doctrine in a manner that lacks clear statutory grounding and creates confusion for taxpayers and practitioners alike.

The ruling addresses several related-party partnership transactions but fails to analyze the threshold requirement in section 7701(o), which specifies that the economic substance doctrine applies only when it is "relevant" to the transaction. Without this foundational analysis, the ruling inappropriately applies section 7701(o) as a general anti-abuse rule. The result in the ruling is that the partnership tax laws are set aside to require the taxpayer to make basis adjustments that would not occur when applying the letter of the law. For so long as the ruling remains, taxpayers must guess between two mutually exclusive outcomes – basis adjustments as required by the law or basis adjustments required by the ruling. This leaves taxpayers uncertain about how and when to apply the partnership tax laws to commercial transactions.

Additionally, the ruling assumes that related-party transactions inherently lack a legitimate business purpose. This assumption is at odds with long-established tax law and the reality of how businesses operate. Related-party transactions are routine in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, investment, and distribution, and are governed by provisions such as section 482 that are specifically designed to ensure fair treatment while recognizing their legitimacy.

We appreciate the current administration's steps to improve tax regulation, including the recent withdrawal of REG-124593-23, which would have designated related-party basis adjustments as "transactions of interest." That decision reflected a welcome commitment to thoughtful, balanced tax administration. In that same spirit, we believe that withdrawing *Revenue Ruling 2024-14* and rejecting its flawed legal analysis would be an important next step toward restoring clarity and consistency in the tax code.

We are confident that under your leadership, the Department will continue its work to modernize tax administration while ensuring that enforcement efforts remain grounded in statute, fairness, and the need for taxpayer certainty. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continued engagement with you and your team.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Smucker Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney Member of Congress

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Brian K. Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

Noutraniel Moran

Nathaniel Moran Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D. Member of Congress

Mike Kelly

Member of Congress

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Carol D. Miller

Member of Congress

Aaron Bean

Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube Member of Congress

David Schweikert Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan

Member of Congress

Adrian Smith

Member of Congress

Rudy Yakym III Member of Congress

Beth Van Duyne Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington Member of Congress Kevin Hern

Member of Congress

Nicole Malliotakis Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Member of Congress