



September 15, 2021

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S. 2748, the Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) applauds the *Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act (S. 2748)* and commends you on your efforts to provide faster tax relief to individuals and businesses affected by natural disasters.

Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornados, wildfires, and heat waves regularly affect the Nation at all times of the year, but the process for receiving tax relief from the IRS following a natural disaster can be an arduous one. Relief from the IRS must follow a presidential disaster declaration, which can come weeks after a state disaster declaration. Since a majority of state disasters become federally declared disasters, taxpayers and tax practitioners experience unnecessary stress and burden as they wait for issuance of federal tax relief.

Waiting on this relief is particularly stressful when natural disasters occur immediately during or before major tax filing seasons and deadlines. This occurrence is not rare: between 2016 and 2020, eleven tropical storms or hurricanes made landfall in the United States near tax return filing deadlines in September and October.¹ This summer's series of natural disasters, in which nearly one in three Americans live in a county that was hit by a weather disaster, is a sad reminder of the urgency for fast tax relief.

In order to hasten the issuance of federal tax relief, this bill would extend the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) authority to grant tax relief following state-declared disasters and states of emergency. It would also expand the mandatory federal filing extension from 60 days to 120 days, which provides taxpayers with additional time to file taxes following a disaster. The AICPA supports and appreciates the meaningful relief that S. 2748 will provide to American taxpayers.

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The AICPA is the world's largest member association representing the CPA profession, with more than 428,000 members in the United States and worldwide, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. Our members advise clients on federal, state and international tax matters and

¹ Thomas M. Spade, *The Uncertainty of Tax Deadline Relief When Disaster Strikes*. 172 Tax Notes Federal, (TA) (September 6, 2021)

The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Mike Crapo
The Honorable Kevin Brady
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prepare income and other tax returns for millions of Americans. Our members provide services to individuals, not-for-profit organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as America's largest businesses.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and others on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Miller, Senior Manager – AICPA Tax Policy & Advocacy, at Amy.Miller@aicpa-cima.com; Lauren Pfingstag, Director – AICPA Congressional and Political Affairs, at Lauren.Pfingstag@aicpa-cima.com; or me at JanLewis@HaddoxReid.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan F. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jan F. Lewis, CPA
Chair, AICPA Tax Executive Committee