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June 15, 2011

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The Honorable Douglas Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

I write you today to express my concern about recent media reports regarding tax audits. On May 26, 2011, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the IRS was moving more aggressively to force small businesses to turn over copies of electronic records kept in their business-software programs. Not only will this increase compliance costs for small businesses during an economic downturn, more importantly it raises concerns about why this information is necessary. I would like an explanation about why the paper records of a business are not sufficient. This new method of examination may allow the IRS to access a greater amount of information from a business than is necessary. Moreover, as a physician, this is especially worrisome for me. Now the IRS could force a doctor, running his practice as a small business, to turn over his records which could contain sensitive, private information about patients. I believe that there must be a way to prevent this.

I ask you to please reply with any answers you may have as to my concerns. I hope to hear from you about this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael C. Burgess".

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress