



MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), I am writing to express our strong support for the passage of H.R. 1957, the *Taxpayer First Act of 2019*. This bill was introduced on a bipartisan basis by Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and Mike Kelly (R-PA), and it passed the House of Representatives on April 9, 2019 by voice vote and awaits Senate consideration. And we strongly support the introduction of S. 928, the Senate companion to this important piece of legislation.

The Taxpayer First Act of 2019 is the first legislative reform to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in nearly two decades and represents the culmination of several years of work in both chambers. The bill would provide necessary reforms for the IRS to restructure the agency, improve customer service, and increase vital taxpayer protections.

Among the many provisions in this bill, we are pleased that the bill includes language to automate the third-party income verification process. Validation of income is an important component of sound residential mortgage lending, while automation will greatly enhance the customer experience by reducing the time needed for a lender to determine how to most suitably serve their clients.

We thank you for your effort on this bipartisan topic and we urge the Senate to pass the *Taxpayer First Act of 2019*. MBA supports the modernization of the IRS, and this bill is a crucial step in reforming the agency and protecting taxpayers. We look forward to our continued work together to promote a more competitive and sustainable lending market in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Quinn", is written over a horizontal line.

Bill Killmer
Senior Vice President, Legislative and Political Affairs

cc: All Members, United States House of Representatives