United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 15, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

We write today to request information regarding staffing levels at the Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department or Treasury) and the ability of the agency to serve the public and comply with its statutory mandates.

On Friday, October 10, 2025, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought announced sweeping Reduction in Force (RIF) plans across the federal government.[1] Director Vought "provided no further details" regarding the RIFs, though an OMB spokesperson stated that the RIFs—which "are layoffs not furloughs"–-were "substantial."[2] In a court filing, the Administration acknowledged it had sent RIF notices to thousands of employees at the Departments of the Treasury, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Interior, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Education, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.[3] It also "hinted at the possibility of additional dismissals."[4]

The Trump Administration has sought to construe the RIFs as a "necessary" part of the government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025.[5] This is, of course, false: in recent years, shutdowns under both Republican and Democratic administrations have ended through bipartisan negotiation—not the arbitrary dismantling of federal programs that serve millions of Americans.[6] Furthermore, the shutdown "provides no new legal authority for an agency to engage in widespread firings."[7] Instead, the Administration's motivations appear purely political. Leading up to the shutdown, the President's threats of mass layoffs were widely understood as an effort to

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[1] Politico, "Vought sounds layoff siren: 'The RIFs have begun,'"Irie Sentner and Jennifer Schlotes, October 10, 2025, https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/10/vought-sounds-layoff-siren-the-rifs-have-begun-00602262?nid=0000018f-3124-de07-a98f-3be4d1400000&nname=politico-toplines&nrid=001d8b3e-7742-4653-adc9-8e16e8aac6d8.
[2] *Id.*
[3] New York Times, "Trump Says Federal Layoffs Have Begun During Government Shutdown," Tony Romm, October 10, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/10/us/politics/federal-layoffs-government-shutdown.html.
[4] *Id.*
[5] *See* pg. 1 of a draft Office of Management and Budget shared with Politico on September 24, 2025, linked in Politico, "White House to agencies: Prepare mass firing plans for a potential shutdown," Sophia Cai, September 24, 2025, https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/24/white-house-firings-shutdown-00579909.
[6] Sam Berger,"Administration Plans for Mass Firings in a Shutdown Not Justified by Law or Prudent Management," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, September 29, 2025, https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/administration-plans-for-mass-firings-in-a-shutdown-not-justified-by-law-or.
[7] *Id.*

"up[] the ante" of a shutdown for Democrats.[8] And on October 9, 2025, President Trump told his cabinet that he was "only cutting Democrat programs, some very popular Democrat programs that aren't popular with Republicans, frankly."[9] The President, in other words, is intentionally using the shutdown to deprive the American public, Democrat and Republican, of services.

These RIFs, if fully implemented, will have significant implications for the Treasury Department's ability to comply with its statutory mandates once the government reopens. They will also have a severe impact on Treasury's component agencies, agencies that include the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is currently under immense strain due to layoffs, resignations, and chaotic leadership changes. The Trump Administration already diminished the federal government's capacity to function through mass firings, RIFs, and deferred resignation programs in early 2025. These new RIFs will only further incapacitate the Treasury Department and its agencies and make it hard—if not impossible—for it to serve the American public.

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, of which Senator Warren is Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over the activities of the Treasury Department, including but not limited to activities at the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, its Federal Insurance Office, the Financial Stability Oversight Council, Office of Financial Research, and the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. The Senate Committee on Finance, of which we are both members and Senator Wyden is the Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over many components and activities of the Treasury Department including but limited to the IRS, Bureau of Public Debt, the Treasury Inspector General's office, and customs, tariff, and revenue functions of the Treasury. To help us better understand the extent to which the President's unnecessary and illegal RIFs will impact the agency's ability to serve the American public if fully implemented, and to inform Congress's exercise of its legislative responsibilities related to the agency, please provide the following information no later than October 22, 2025:

1. An organizational chart describing all relevant divisions, subdivisions, offices, and programs of the Treasury Department, in effect as of January 20, 2025.

    a. The total number of employees employed at Treasury as of January 20, 2025.

    b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, and program of the Treasury Department as of January 20, 2025.

2. An organizational chart describing all relevant divisions, subdivisions, offices, and programs of the Treasury Department, in effect as of September 30, 2025, after close of business.

    a. The total number of employees employed at the Treasury Department as of September 30, 2025, after close of business.

[8] Politico, "White House to agencies: Prepare mass firing plans for a potential shutdown," Sophia Cai, September 24, 2025, https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/24/white-house-firings-shutdown-00579909.
[9] Politico, "Trump promises cuts to programs favored by Democrats," Ben Johansen, October 9, 2025, https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/09/trump-promises-cuts-democrats-programs-00599884.

   b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, and program of the Treasury Department as of September 30, 2025, after close of business.

3. Copies of all RIF notices, plans, and guidance sent to Treasury Department employees on or after October 10, 2025.

   a. The total number of employees that would be employed at the Treasury Department, should such RIF plans go into effect.

   b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, and program of the Treasury Department, should such RIF plans go into effect.

   c. A detailed description of the Treasury Department's capacity to comply with its statutory mandates, should all RIFs go into effect.

      i. Provide this information for each division, subdivision, office, and program, as well as each statutorily required function of the agency.

4. Copies of all Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans (ARRPs) submitted by Treasury to OMB and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), pursuant to the February 11, 2025, Executive Order entitled, "Implementing The President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Workforce Optimization Initiative (Workforce Optimization)" and the February 26, 2025, OMB memorandum implementing such order.[10] Specifically, provide:

   a. The "Phase 1 ARRPs," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on March 13, 2025.

   b. The "Phase 2 ARRPs," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on April 14, 2025.

   c. The "monthly progress reports," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on May 14, 2025, June 16, 2025, and July 16, 2025.

   d. Analysis of how the ARRP plans submitted to OMB and OPM interact with any RIF notices described in (3).

Sincerely,

[10] Memorandum from Russell T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget, and Charles Ezell, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, regarding Guidance on Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans Requested by *Implementing The President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*, February 26, 2025, https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/guidance-on-agency-rif-and-reorganization-plans-requested-by-implementing-the-president-s-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative.pdf.

Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance