

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Frank Bisignano
Chief Executive Officer
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Secretary Bessent and Mr. Bisignano:

The war in Iran has created an energy crisis, burdening Americans with exorbitant gas prices. To mitigate rising costs, we strongly urge you to raise the standard mileage rates for business use and medical and moving uses for the remainder of calendar year 2026.

Each year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adjusts the amount Americans can deduct for vehicle miles traveled for business, medical purposes, and certain job-related moving purposes. The standard mileage rates also set the maximum tax-free benefit that employees can receive from their employers for business use of their personal vehicle. On December 29, 2025, the IRS announced that the standard mileage would be set at “72.5 cents per mile driven for business use... 20.5 cents per mile driven for medical purposes... [and] 20.5 cents per mile driven for moving purposes for certain active-duty members of the Armed Forces” beginning on January 1, 2026. While these amounts may have been adequate at the time, they do not account for a drastic rise in fuel prices in recent months.

After the war in Iran began on February 28, gas prices rose by 50 percent. In New York, gas prices increased from an average of \$3.00 per gallon to over \$4.50 per gallon, making it harder for New Yorkers to see their doctor and New York businesses to conduct day-to-day operations. New Yorkers were already struggling to make ends meet due to this administration’s tariff policy. Now, financial strains are further exacerbated by the war in Iran.

In several previous instances of heightened fuel prices, the IRS increased the standard mileage rate. Most recently, the IRS increased the standard mileage rate in 2022 by four cents for business, medical, and moving expenses for active-duty members of the military. Then-Commissioner Charles Rettig stated, “[we] are aware a number of unusual factors have come into play involving fuel costs, and we are taking this special step to help taxpayers, businesses and others who use this rate.”

Similar to 2022, special steps must be taken by the IRS to protect Americans as they face high gas prices. Today, an increase in the standard mileage rate is warranted by increased fuel prices while the United States remains at war with Iran. To provide necessary relief to Americans, it is imperative that you raise the standard mileage rates for the remainder of the calendar year.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Laura A. Gillen

Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress