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## United States Senate

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

I'm deeply troubled by recent reports suggesting the IRS is considering using facial recognition to access online accounts through its private contractor ID.me. While I recognize the importance of cybersecurity and identity verification, I strongly believe using facial recognition is an unnecessary privacy violation. That's why I urge you to consider alternative methods to secure online accounts.

I appreciate my ongoing conversations with the administration about protecting the privacy of Montanans as you work to adopt security systems that protect personal data and prevent fraud and identity theft. As an agency that citizens must interact with to pay their taxes and access essential initiatives, I believe it is critically important to find an alternative method to achieve secure networks that does not require facial recognition software.

There is no doubt that new cyber threats emerge every day that require innovative solutions to combat. We must find a way to confront these threats without sacrificing the privacy of our citizens. Facial recognition software through a private contractor is simply not the answer.

I look forward to working with you to find solutions that secure individuals' accounts and protect privacy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator