



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JIMMY PATRONIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

September 20, 2023

To Venmo, PayPal, Cash App, and Zelle

As Florida's Chief Financial Officer, protecting Floridians and their financial interest is of paramount importance to me.

As you are aware, in late 2022 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) signaled its intent to create a rule where transactions over \$600 via cash-apps would be taxed. The rule proves the Biden Administration isn't focused on "billionaires" – in order to pay for all their programs. This concept is plagued with problems. Moreover, taxing smaller dollar cash transactions doesn't equate to "income." For example, if parents helped with their son or daughter's gas bill via cash-app, their kids are now paying taxes. People aren't stupid; they're going to move to cash.

This is also the government colluding with Big Tech to get in the day-to-day business of Americans. (It's the first step in any George Orwell book.) You figure out what people are spending their money on, then you know their hopes, dreams and ambitions; you know who their friends are, what they do on the weekend, what their diet is, etc. etc. We saw in the Twitter Files how various federal agencies partnered with Big Tech to throttle down stories that were deemed unacceptable to federal bureaucrats – if the federal government starts partnering with cash-apps, like yourself, their power to de-bank and target their enemies would be supercharged. Let's not forget about when the IRS targeted Tea Party groups and had to apologize for it.

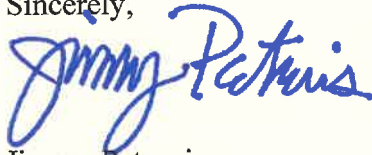
Let's also talk about how this is a terrible idea from a dollar and cents perspective. With record high inflation, our small business owners are already struggling to make ends meet and we must do everything in our power to protect them from this massive overreach and prevent unneeded government red tape. This past year, a record 5.4 million Americans applied to form their own business, and this new reporting requirement could be detrimental.

Therefore, as deployment of this taxing mechanism is currently "paused" I demand that you cease all coordination with the federal government in development of these technologies and make public your communications with the IRS. The State of Florida is not going to sit idly by while Big Tech is building technologies to violate Floridians' privacy, nor shakedown small business owners, who are just trying to make a buck in an economy where

everything is expensive. We're also not going to pretend that you're *not* coordinating with the feds to build these tools. You need to come forward and tell the American public how much progress you've made in targeting Americans.

I will be proposing a bill in the upcoming session to protect Florida taxpayers from these tools, and your record documenting the back-and-forth with the IRS would be invaluable. This is an opportunity to not be the "bad guy." If you're being pressured by the Biden Administration, let's put it on X for the world to see. Please work in coordination with us to protect the American taxpayer.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Patronis
Florida Chief Financial Officer