

State of Louisiana
Department of Revenue

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor



KEVIN J. RICHARD, CPA
Secretary

March 8, 2023

Dear Mr. Ron Gitz, Executive Director and
Members of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants:

I am aware of the frustration you are experiencing with the electronic filing of business tax returns this filing season. First and foremost, I offer my sincerest apologies on the inconveniences you are facing, and know that I am actively addressing the delays.

By way of background, nearly all Louisiana tax returns were substantively modified with the recent repeal of the Federal Income Tax Deduction. Our team moved up the development, testing, and production timeline to the extent possible with our limited resources and personnel. In order to approve software vendors, we share the schema of the tax returns, which are then programmed into the vendor's software. From there, test files (i.e. sample returns) are electronically filed and tested again for accuracy. On multiple occasions impacting both individual and corporate returns, the software produced incorrect calculations of tax, which required correcting.

As of February 28, all but one software vendor were approved to file the corporation income and franchise tax returns with LDR. Except for fiduciary returns, which I anticipate will go live this week, nearly all of the other vendors are approved to file individual and partnership returns. I have communicated with upper management of each software vendor to request an immediate release of the necessary and approved updates so that returns can be electronically filed via their software. I believe that the remaining vendors will offer their software releases ahead of the federal March 15 deadline. Please refer to our [Tax Professionals](#) section of the LDR website for continuous updates.

Following the 2023 tax season, I invite interested stakeholders, by way of your respective associations, to join key LDR team members to discuss the benefits and challenges of accepting business returns earlier in the tax season. Nevertheless, LDR will open tax filing season – for individuals and businesses – at the IRS opening of tax season for 2024. LDR commits to the reallocation of resources to meet these goals and will continue to consider your feedback in administering the Louisiana tax system.

In public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. Richard".

Kevin J. Richard, CPA
Secretary of Revenue

Contributing to a better quality of life.