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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

February 11, 2014

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Ms. Barbara Bosserman
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Bosserman:

I am writing to you as the lead Department of Justice (DOJ) investigator into the inappropriate and potentially unlawful targeting of conservative organizations by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). As news reports and Congressional investigation have chronicled, the IRS slow-walked applications for tax-exempt status and subjected conservative groups to additional intrusive scrutiny based on their personal, political, and religious beliefs. It is no surprise the public has expressed outrage at these seeming attempts to use the institutions of the federal government to silence the political dissent of opponents, a notion antithetical to the American ideals of fairness, equal protection, and due process. As a part of these efforts, the IRS specifically targeted an organization from my district, the West Suburban Patriots of DuPage County, IL, dragging out their application process, scrutinizing their political views, and even forcing changes to their website during the course of a “routine” review of their application for tax-exempt status. Hundreds of additional groups across the country were similarly unfairly treated.

Much has been made of your personal history as an activist and political advocate, including your significant financial support for President Obama’s political campaigns. **While I agree with my Congressional colleagues that these factors raise serious concerns about your ability to lead a full and impartial investigation into IRS wrongdoing committed against those who disagree with President Obama and oppose his policies, my principle interest is in finding out what happened, who is responsible, and ultimately achieving justice for those injured throughout this process.**

As a career lawyer, you have a responsibility to set aside your personal political beliefs and carry out an investigation to fully inform the public and remedy the damage caused. Specifically, I expect your investigation to adhere to the following principles:

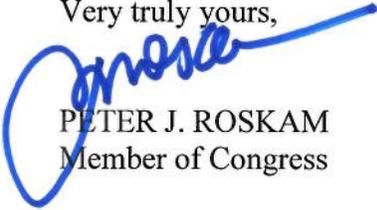
- Establish a process to comprehensively review documents and interview witnesses involved in the consideration of tax-exempt applications;
- Establish a process to review documents and interview individuals from organizations that were victim to such inappropriate IRS tactics;
- Determine who initiated the targeting and for what reason;

- Identify all individuals who participated in and perpetuated the targeting;
- Review any concerns, warnings, or red flags raised by IRS or federal government employees related to the targeting program before it was disclosed to the public nearly two years after inception;
- Identify the harm caused to applicant organizations and any remedies available to make them whole;
- Determine if any targeting-related activities were unlawful and if so, which penalties apply; and
- Identify steps that can be taken to prevent this type of inappropriate activity from occurring again in the future.

Like many Americans, I was deeply disturbed to hear recent reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has already determined not to file criminal charges in this matter, despite the ongoing nature of the investigation. Just recently, House Ways and Means Committee investigators identified an IRS employee who leaked the donor list for the National Organization of Marriage to that group's chief political adversary, the Human Rights Campaign. Disclosing confidential taxpayer information is a felony. This example alone demonstrates that the FBI conclusion is at best premature, and at worst, incompatible with the facts in this matter. Furthermore, when presented with an opportunity to inform the Congress about this investigation through testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, you declined to participate. **With public scrutiny already severely heightened due to the seriousness of the circumstances at hand, the mere appearance of anything less than a full and fair accounting of the facts and a vigorous effort to bring those involved in wrongdoing to justice simply damages the credibility of the DOJ inquiry and tarnishes the professionalism of those who are carrying it out.**

I hope that in the course of your investigation, you will be careful to consider all of the facts and present the full and unbiased explanation that the American people deserve. Rest assured that my constituents and I will be monitoring your progress carefully.

Very truly yours,



PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress