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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 3, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable J. Russell George
Inspector General
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 469
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Inspector General George:

In the wake of the May 14, 2013 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) audit report finding that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) inappropriately targeted specific organizations applying for 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) tax exempt status, my office has received specific allegations of inappropriate political targeting of individual candidates for office by other divisions within the IRS. In addition, media sources now report that similar targeting by IRS officials may also have been directed at politically affiliated individuals and donors.¹ If the scope of political targeting known to your office goes beyond the tax exempt organizations division as outlined in your audit report, then Congress and the American people need to be aware of any such indications of broader problems as soon as possible.

TIGTA is the primary organization responsible for detecting fraud and abuse within the IRS and for promoting the integrity of our tax system. In order to understand the full scope of any inappropriate political targeting of individual candidates or donors known to TIGTA, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Since 2006, in how many instances has TIGTA found evidence that the IRS targeted for audit any candidates for public office? Please provide as detailed a description of each case as possible of TIGTA's response to such evidence, consistent with taxpayer confidentiality requirements, including (1) the dates that any TIGTA inquiry into such evidence was opened and closed, (2) whether a recommendation for criminal prosecution was considered or approved by TIGTA internally, and (3) whether a

¹ Matthew Mosk, *IRS Suspicion Widens: GOP Donors Question Audits*, ABC NEWS (May 15, 2013), <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/irs-suspicion-widens-gop-donors-question-audits/story?id=19184358>.

recommendation for criminal prosecution was considered or approved by the Justice Department.

2. Since 2006, in how many instances has TIGTA found evidence that the confidential tax records of any political donor or candidate for public office were inappropriately accessed by any IRS employee or other Federal or State government officials? Please provide as detailed a description of each case as possible of TIGTA's response to such evidence, consistent with taxpayer confidentiality requirements, including (1) the dates that any TIGTA inquiry into such evidence was opened and closed, (2) whether a recommendation for criminal prosecution was considered or approved by TIGTA internally, and (3) whether a recommendation for criminal prosecution was considered or approved by the Justice Department.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please respond to these questions by June 10, 2013. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jason Foster or Kevin Huse of my staff at (202) 224-5225. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary