

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

May 17, 2013

The Honorable J. Russell George
Inspector General for Tax Administration
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
U.S. Department of Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Inspector General George:

As you know because of previous correspondence, several years ago a number of my constituents approached me expressing concerns over the degree to which the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) had engaged in lobbying efforts and political activities. My constituents believed these actions to be in violation of the 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status held by HSUS. After reviewing a number of documents myself, I, too, became concerned and began corresponding with the Department of Treasury, including a phone call on May 5, 2010 with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Director of Exempt Organizations, Ms. Lois Lerner.

Over the years, I have sent countless documents to the IRS that I believe clearly warrant an investigation of HSUS' tax-exempt status. In response, the IRS has consistently stated that it is unable to comment on any pending investigations and provided me with almost no information regarding my requests.

Though I had grown increasingly frustrated over the years, I believed the IRS had at least taken my requests seriously and looked into the matter. Given that IRS officials have now admitted that the agency, including Ms. Lerner's office, targeted conservative non-profit organizations and has been improperly involved in politics, I have serious doubts about the extent to which my requests for an investigation of HSUS' tax-exempt status, a left-leaning non-profit organization, were given due consideration. Adding to my skepticism, I recently became aware that Ms. Lerner is herself, an active member of HSUS and has spoken at HSUS events.

While it is disconcerting to think that Ms. Lerner, who oversees tax-exempt organizations for the IRS, may have disregarded my request for an investigation due to her own political beliefs or those of her staff, in light of the recent revelations about the activities of Ms. Lerner's office and in the absence of any other explanation from the IRS, many Americans will arrive at this very conclusion.

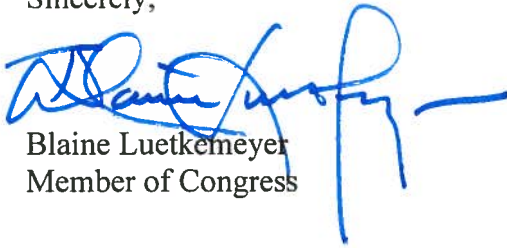
With that in mind, I today formally requested that Treasury Secretary Lew and Attorney General Holder investigate the IRS' handling of my requests and report back to me in a timely fashion. Because anything short of a timely and thorough investigation threatens to undermine the vital

work done by rule-abiding non-profit organizations across this nation, I also formally request that you perform a separate investigation into this matter.

If the government entity charged with collecting taxes cannot do so in an unbiased, non-partisan manner, the people of this nation will lose faith in our democracy. To restore the faith and trust of the American people in our government, we must first determine the exact depth of wrongdoing within the IRS.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Please feel free to have your staff contact Chance McNeely in my office at 202-225-2956 if we can be of any assistance regarding this request. I look forward to receiving your formal response and reviewing the findings of your investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blaine Luetkemeyer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress