

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
B-300, Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Crenshaw, and Ranking Members Lowey and Serrano:

We write to you to urge the inclusion of language in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016, which would prohibit bonuses for employees at the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division. As you are aware, this is the division within the IRS that was responsible for the targeting of certain ideological groups applying for tax-exempt organization status during the 2012 election cycle.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen announced in February 2014 his decision to pay out bonuses to IRS employees to improve "employee morale." We find these payouts to be particularly offensive given that the morale of countless Americans has been crushed by the IRS. We understand, though, that not every IRS employee was responsible for these misdeeds. It seems that the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division was the primary culprit for these unjust actions. That is why we are only seeking to prohibit this division's bonuses in the upcoming appropriations process.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016:

"None of the funds in this Act may be used to pay salary increases, performance awards, or any type of bonuses to employees of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the Internal Revenue Service."

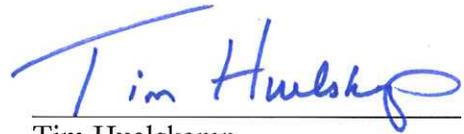
The power to tax is the power to destroy, and these employees at the IRS committed a grave injustice to countless Americans. It sends the wrong message to the American people that Congress would allow these "performance awards" to be doled after the wrongdoing that occurred.

As always, we thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request, and for your continued leadership on your respective committees.

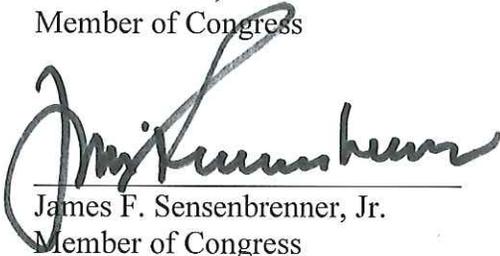
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress