

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 23, 2012

The Honorable Douglas H. Shulman  
Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service  
Room 3000 IR  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

It has come to our attention that numerous nonprofit civic organizations across the country have experienced extensive delays and received excessively burdensome information requests in connection with their applications for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. §501(c). These requests have included demands for complete records of every oral statement ever provided by any member of the organization, vague probes into tangential associations with private citizens and excessively long questionnaires all to be returned within unreasonably short time periods. These demands go well beyond good-faith due diligence and appear designed to be logistically and financially impossible to comply with.

Tax-exempt status exists to ensure that taxation does not hinder citizens' engagement in social welfare and civic activities. To wit, 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(4)(A) exempts "[c]ivic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare...the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes." Further, the I.R.S. has affirmed that these organizations "may carry on lawful political activities and remain exempt as long as it is primarily engaged in activities that promote social welfare." (Rev. Rule 81-95, 1981-1 C.B. 332)

These recent inquiries appear to constitute disparate treatment for no apparent reason other than the political persuasion of applicants. Such practices chill these groups' Constitutionally-guaranteed rights to civic participation, freedom of association and free speech and are better left to despotic regimes than a revenue-collection agency in a free country.

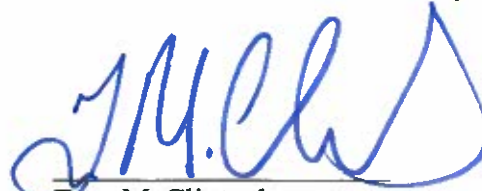
It does not appear that the missions and activities of these organizations require information beyond the scope of Form 1024 and Schedule B, which we understand to have been traditionally required. We request that you provide a response demonstrating how these recent requests by the I.R.S are consistent with precedent and supported by law. We further request that the I.R.S. refrain from any additional unwarranted and excessive information demands and other dilatory tactics.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

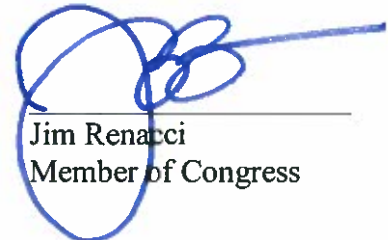
Sincerely,



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



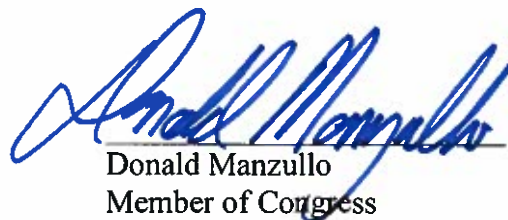
John Fleming  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



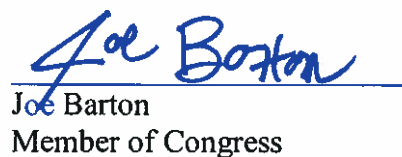
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo  
Member of Congress



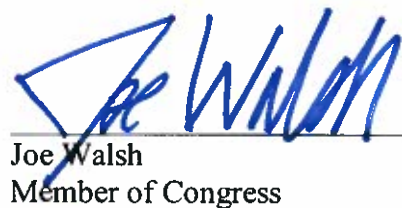
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Joe Barton  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



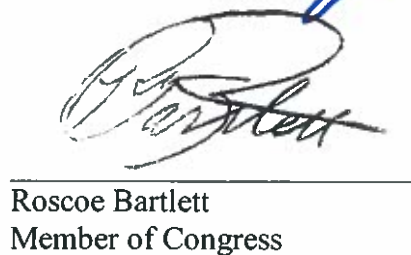
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress




Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Roscoe Bartlett  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Charles Boustany  
Member of Congress



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James Lankford  
Member of Congress



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Dennis Ross  
Member of Congress



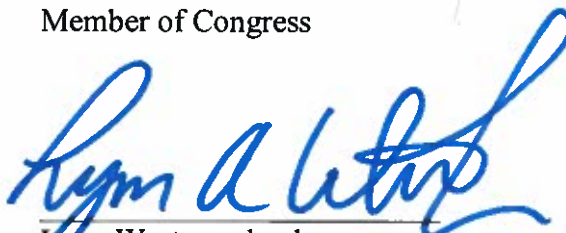
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Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Francisco "Quico" Canseco  
Member of Congress



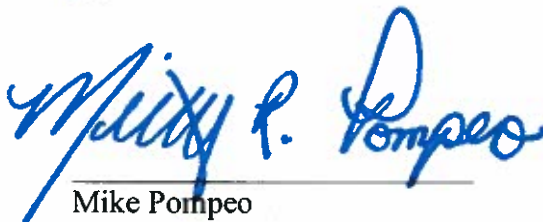
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Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



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Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



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Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



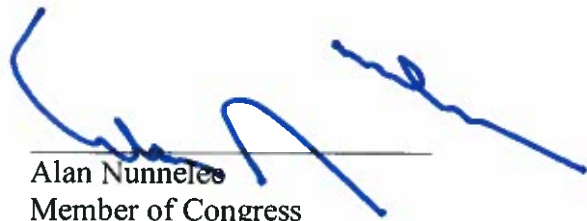
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Raúl Labrador  
Member of Congress



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W. Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



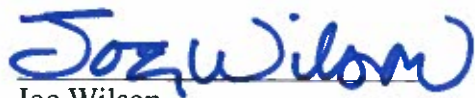
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Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress



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Steve King  
Member of Congress




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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



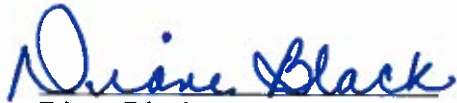
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John Kline  
Member of Congress



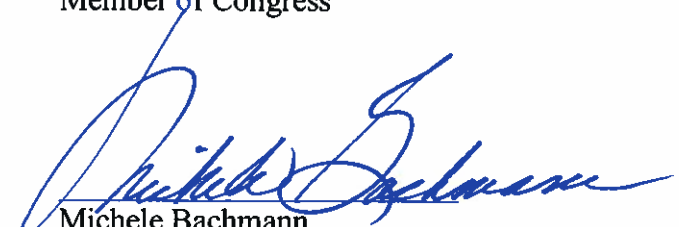
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Ted Poe  
Member of Congress




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Diane Black  
Member of Congress




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Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress




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Richard Nugent  
Member of Congress



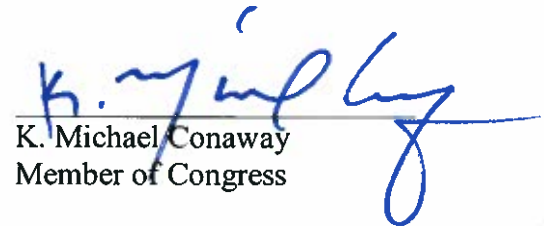
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Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



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Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress




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K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



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Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress



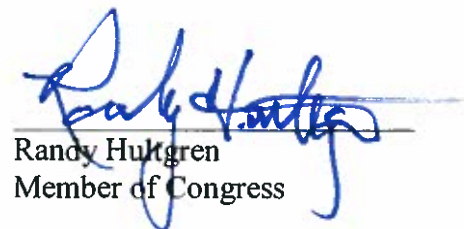
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Tom Graves  
Member of Congress



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Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress



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Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



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Ann Marie Buerkle  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Landry  
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress



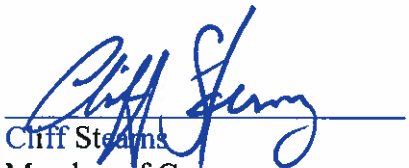
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



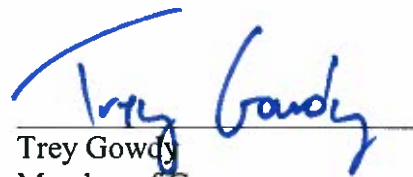
Cliff Stearns  
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress



Robert Latta  
Member of Congress



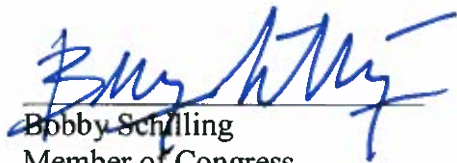
Trey Gowdy  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



Bobby Schilling  
Member of Congress



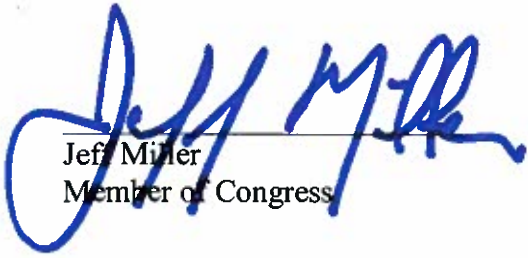
Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress




Sandy Adams  
Member of Congress



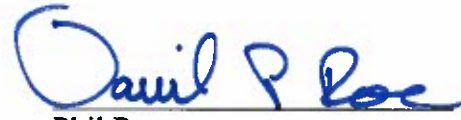
Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress



Connie Mack  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



Phil Roe  
Member of Congress