

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

March 17, 2016

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

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw, and Ranking Member Serrano:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language that would prohibit bonuses for senior executives within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017:

*"Sec. \_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code, to any employee of the Internal Revenue Service."*

This language is identical to language that passed the House with strong bipartisan support in fiscal year 2015 in the form of H.AMDT.1079 to H.R. 5016. At that time, 57 Democrats joined every single Republican in seeking to prevent senior bureaucrats within the IRS from collecting lavish bonuses. Furthermore, the House has passed nearly identical language three different times to prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs from giving out bonuses to senior executives.

The IRS distributed a "Be on the Lookout" list and began targeting conservative organizations applying for tax exempt status in August 2010. The Treasury Inspector General (IG) issued a report confirming targeting by the agency on May 14, 2013. The House of Representatives voted to hold Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress in May 2014. In December 2014, the IG recovered more than 30,000 backed up Lois Lerner emails in relation to this scandal that the agency previously testified were unrecoverable.

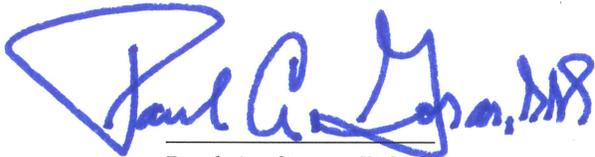
In July 2013, Danny Werfel, Acting Commissioner of the IRS, sought to eliminate bonuses for union employees and senior executives within the agency sending an email to employees, which

stated, "I do not believe there should be performance awards this year for IRS employees, managers or executives." Current IRS Commissioner Koskinen took control of the agency in December 2013 and chose to ignore Werfel's attempts to restore trust within the agency. In February 2014, Koskinen announced his decision to pay out bonuses to IRS employees to improve "employee morale," and on Koskinen's watch, the IRS has doled out more than 450 bonuses totaling nearly \$2 million. To make matters worse, in the five-year period beginning January 1, 2015 and ending February 2, 2015, the IRS handed out 1,269 bonuses and incentives totaling \$5.97 million. Lois Lerner alone received \$129,000 in bonuses.

At a time of soaring deficits, and with a federal debt in excess of \$19 trillion, allowing lavish bonuses to continue to go to senior management within the IRS is especially wasteful. Again, we ask that you prohibit bonuses for senior executives within the IRS for FY 2017.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



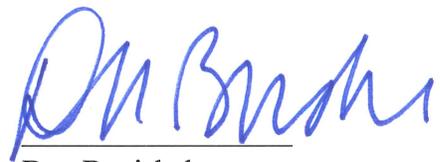
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S  
Member of Congress



Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



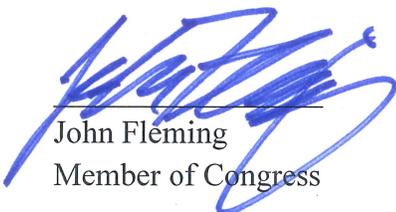
Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



John Fleming  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress