

KENNY MARCHANT  
24TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL SECURITY

**Congress of the United States**  
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March 28, 2012

The Honorable Douglas Shulman  
Commissioner of Internal Revenue  
10<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

I am writing to voice my deep concerns over recent inquiries by the IRS into the tax-exempt status of conservative organizations, including several Tea Party groups across the nation.

Since the beginning of the year, groups such as the Tea Party have received numerous lengthy questionnaires and intrusive information demands from the IRS. The questions contained in these IRS letters, such as asking these organizations for their membership lists and their relationships with candidates for public office, appear to violate the First Amendment rights of the groups. Demanding that these groups reveal their internal workings, the identity of their members, donors and volunteers, and even what they discuss at their private meetings, is well beyond the scope of any legitimate IRS inquiry.

According to Jay Sekulow, a former lawyer at the Office of the Chief Counsel of the IRS, to comply with one of these IRS letters could take up to 7,000 pieces of paper. This kind of overly-burdensome information request diverts resources away from the important work of Tea Party groups and other grassroots organizations, and it is simply unacceptable.

I join my colleagues in the House and concerned citizens throughout the 24th Congressional District of Texas in calling for an answer on this matter. The actions and intentions of the IRS in sending these letters to private, non-profit groups must be explained. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress