

JASON SMITH  
MISSOURI,  
CHAIRMAN

MARK ROMAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
(202) 225-3626



RICHARD E. NEAL  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
RANKING MEMBER

BRANDON CASEY, STAFF DIRECTOR  
(202) 225-4021

# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

I write to request that the Committee promptly seek transcribed interviews from the 42 individuals identified below given the recent executive session. To date, the Committee has identified more than 59 individuals with knowledge relevant to the allegations. Of these individuals, the Committee interviewed only two people—about 3%—before rushing to release their unsubstantiated allegations to the public. Ironically, during his interview, the first individual stated, “I have never been part of an investigation where only getting most of the data was considered sufficient.” Yet, he is now at the center of an “investigation” where the Committee does not even have “most” of the information, which, by his standards, would still be insufficient. The Committee has nothing more than unverified allegations from two individuals, one of whom was “handpicked,” supervised, and referred to the Committee by the other. This so-called “investigation” is nowhere close to being fully baked.

Committee Democrats agree that all whistleblower allegations must be taken seriously and that taxpayers should pay their fair share of taxes. However, we opposed the public release of a private citizen’s confidential tax information because the material released is an unsubstantiated, premature, and incomplete record of a years-long investigation being handled by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ)—spanning both Republican and Democratic Administrations.

Committee Democrats are deeply troubled that unsubstantiated allegations were released to the public before the Committee took any further steps to corroborate them. The unsubstantiated allegations of two employees—one who spoke on his own free will and the other at your request—do not justify the release of a private citizen’s confidential tax information. During the executive session, Committee Democrats raised many objections to the public release of these allegations, including, but not limited to, the below.

**The whistleblower transcript contains unauthenticated documents from unknown sources found by searches on the internet, giving an appearance that these documents are from IRS files provided by the whistleblower when, in fact, they are not.** Exhibit 4 and Exhibit 5 were not produced by Whistleblower #1 to the Committee. The Majority presented these exhibits to the whistleblower, included them in the transcript, did not authenticate them, and did not reveal their source. During the executive session, in response to questions, Committee Democrats found out that these exhibits were

obtained by the Majority from “open sources”—*i.e.*, the Internet. Yet, the exact source remains unknown, and the exhibits were not authenticated. These exhibits are not from IRS files despite their appearance in the transcript. These unauthenticated exhibits from unknown sources should not have been included in the transcript as if they are documents provided by the whistleblower or his attorney from the IRS.

**The Majority did not interview any of the individuals (more than 50 people) identified in the transcripts before prematurely releasing the allegations to the public.** The case began in November 2018 under the former Administration, and many of the allegations regarding delay and slow-walking occurred under Trump-appointed officials (*e.g.*, the former Attorney General and former IRS Commissioner). The prosecutors, investigators, and key employees largely have remained the same. Yet, no interviews were conducted of any individuals who possess relevant information before publicly releasing the unsubstantiated allegations.

During the executive session, Committee Democrats repeatedly questioned whether certain individuals or any of the more than 50 individuals identified in the transcripts had been interviewed, called, e-mailed, sent a letter, or otherwise contacted by the Majority. The Majority had not. These individuals, including government employees and our nation’s law enforcement agents, were given no opportunity to defend their names or respond to the allegations. Therefore, in addition to the mere 13 employees you selected for interviews, I request that the Committee promptly seek transcribed interviews from the 42 individuals identified below:

1. William P. Barr, former DOJ
2. Matthew Kutz, IRS
3. Veena Luthra, IRS
4. Christine (Christy) Steinbrunner, IRS
5. Christine Puglisi, IRS
6. Anthony LoPiccolo, IRS
7. Adam Soline, IRS
8. George Murphy, IRS
9. Kareem A. Carter, IRS
10. Lola B. Watson, IRS
11. John D. (Don) Fort, IRS
12. James (Jim) C. Lee, IRS
13. Richard T. Lunger, IRS
14. Elizabeth Hadden, IRS
15. Scott Goodlin, IRS
16. Guy A. Ficco, IRS
17. Brian McKenzie, DOJ
18. John Kane, DOJ
19. Carly A. Hudson, DOJ
20. Jason Poole, DOJ Tax
21. Jamie M. McCall, former DOJ
22. Michelle Hoffman, FBI
23. Joshua Wilson, FBI
24. Michael Dzielak, FBI
25. Garrett Curley, FBI
26. Joseph Gordon, FBI
27. The first IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) special agent assigned to this case.
28. The 9 additional agents in the IRS International Tax and Financial Crimes group.

29. The Criminal Tax (CT) counsel at the IRS National Office who allegedly reached out to the co-agent (Christine Puglisi) on the case on February 9, 2022.
30. The five (5) members of the IRS National Office team who reviewed Criminal Tax Counsel Steinbrunner's recommendation related to the Special Agent Report (SAR) regarding this case. These members were referenced in connection with alleged telephone call on February 9, 2022.

As stated during the executive session, the Committee should have talked to these individuals, corroborated the allegations, and authenticated all exhibits before prematurely releasing the unsubstantiated allegations to the public. The release of a private citizen's confidential tax information is a serious matter and should not be based on uncorroborated allegations. The release of confidential taxpayer information also should not be used by the Committee to intervene in judicial proceedings or investigations by the Inspectors General. As you know, the Committee is not a law enforcement body and cannot exercise our investigative powers for the purpose of law enforcement, which is vested in the executive and judicial branches.

This Committee has a duty to seek the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in all matters brought before us and to follow the facts wherever they may lead. For this reason, I request that the Committee begin scheduling transcribed interviews with the 42 individuals listed above, starting with Mr. William P. Barr and Mr. Matthew Kutz, as soon as possible and before 5:00 p.m. on July 13, 2023. Thank you, in advance, for your immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
Ranking Member