



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

August 6, 2013

The Honorable Candice S. Miller
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing to follow up on our meeting in your office on July 31, 2013, and your letter of the same day. Your letter requests all communications and records of communications between the FEC and the IRS for the past five-and-a-half years. As you know, the FEC has begun to produce the documents you have requested and will continue to do so.

The stated reason for the request is “[t]o help ensure that the FEC has not coordinated with the IRS on the targeting of Americans on the basis of their political beliefs.” As you note, this is a grave allegation. If true, and I have seen no evidence of this to date, such targeting would be unacceptable. Even a suspicion of improper targeting affects the credibility of the agency. Therefore, after having read this same allegation in a National Review Online article the morning of our meeting, I immediately referred the matter to the FEC’s Inspector General for an impartial, independent review. I did not discuss the referral during our meeting because I had not yet conferred with the Inspector General as to what, if anything, may be made public during the pendency of such an investigation. She has confirmed that I may share the fact of the referral.

Without prejudging the results of any investigation, I note that in my experience, the staff of the FEC have shown themselves to be dedicated public servants. I personally have never seen any indication of any motivation on their part beyond the desire to fairly administer and enforce the law.

The National Review Online article appears to have been based on an email exchange, which you now have, in which a staff attorney sought guidance on the process by which the IRS confers tax exempt status on 501(c)(4) organizations and sought assistance in obtaining publicly available information. No confidential tax information was requested or received in those communications, and as noted, the search for all other communications is ongoing.

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It is important that the truth be determined, and I look forward to the results of the Inspector General's investigation. Some of the press reports unfortunately appear to be based on unfounded innuendo or guilt by association. As I am sure we agree, any discussion of these important issues must be based on the facts.

I look forward to continued cooperation with the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen L. Weintraub".

Ellen L. Weintraub
Chair

cc: The Honorable Robert A. Brady
Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration