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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2013

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The Honorable J. Russell George
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 469
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. George:

I am writing to request access to evidence uncovered by recent investigations that have revealed numerous unacceptable activities taking place at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). As you know, a June 20, 2013 report by your office found that IRS employees used agency purchase cards to make more than 273,000 purchases totaling nearly \$108 million in 2010 and 2011. Agency cards were used to make improper purchases including—but not limited to—diet pills, wine, a smart phone, and romance novels.

TIGTA further identified almost \$4,000 in inappropriate giveaway items. This list includes—but is not limited to—\$3,152 on popcorn and game machine rentals, \$418 for items such as bath tub toy boats and kazoo's, and \$119 on Nerf footballs.

This report on improper behavior at the IRS comes amid allegations that the IRS has engaged in discriminatory targeting for years, lavished millions on extravagant conferences, and mistakenly posted the Social Security numbers of thousands of Americans online. Any misuse of taxpayer dollars is unacceptable, and to have the very agency charged with tax collection squander taxpayer dollars in this manner undermines the American people's faith in the federal government. Therefore, I respectfully request to view the improper and inappropriate purchases listed above, and any other related items, to fully understand this flagrant waste.

TIGTA has long been known as a legitimate, non-partisan, resource for Members of Congress looking to improve the performance of the IRS. You have been instrumental in uncovering the recent and varied misdeeds at the IRS. I hope that you will continue this effort to increase transparency and encourage accountability by providing me access to this evidence as a result of the troubling nature of the IRS employees' activities.

I look forward to your timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress