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# Congress of the United States

## U.S. House of Representatives

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JANICE MAYS,  
MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

October 22, 2014

The Honorable Jacob Lew  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Secretary Lew,

Some of the key questions remaining in the investigation into the IRS' targeting of conservatives groups are: who at the White House knew what was going on; when did they know it; and, what action did they take upon learning about it? Your office is now refusing to make available until after the election the very person that could unlock that mystery. This is completely unacceptable, especially for an Administration that once pledged to be the most open and transparent ever.

On September 16, 2014, five weeks ago, I first requested that you make available for an interview Hannah Stott-Bumstead, a Treasury Department counsel, who, based on transcribed interviews of IRS personnel, appears to be the first person at Treasury to be told by the IRS that it had lost Lois Lerner's emails. Notwithstanding President Obama's pledge to "work with Congress as it performs its oversight role...[a]nd...make sure that we are working hand in hand with Congress to get this thing fixed," to date your Department has refused to allow the Committee to directly question Ms. Stott-Bumstead.<sup>1</sup> In addition to reiterating my request to interview Ms. Stott-Bumstead without delay, I am requesting additional information about what Ms. Stott-Bumstead and others at Treasury did with this information, including how the White House was informed, and why the decision was made to not inform Congress until months later.

As has been customary through the course of the investigation, I requested the interview be scheduled within two weeks. On September 29, Treasury representatives, including a lawyer from the Department's General Counsel, contacted Committee staff to question the scope of the interview, which my staff provided in the interest of comity. These

<sup>1</sup> [Statement by the President, The White House, May 15, 2013.](#)

officials raised no objections about the interview request or Ms. Stott-Bumstead's availability. Staff further reiterated the request for a date certain to interview Ms. Stott-Bumstead by close of business October 1. The following week, Treasury officials ignored this Committee's phone and email inquiries about Ms. Stott-Bumstead's availability.

On the morning of October 14, a month from the initial request, the same Treasury officials told staff that Ms. Stott-Bumstead was not available until sometime in November. The Treasury representatives further said that while your Department did not absolutely refuse to make Ms. Stott-Bumstead available at some future date, the interview request raised serious Constitutional and practical concerns. Among the concerns was the request involved the interview of a Treasury lawyer. However, the Committee has already interviewed 15 Treasury lawyers in the course of its investigation. Why the sudden change in Department protocol? As an accommodation, the officials offered the Committee a letter within a "few weeks" to address the issues raised by the Committee. A written response, in what would be two months after the initial request, is not a satisfactory substitute for a transcribed interview.

In addition to providing Ms. Stott-Bumstead for an interview without delay, please provide written answers to the following questions no later than October 27, 2014:

1. Besides Hannah Stott-Bumstead, provide the names and titles of all Treasury employees that were informed of the Lerner email loss before Congress was informed on June 13, 2014.
2. Provide the names and titles of all Treasury employees that informed the White House of the Lerner email loss before June 13, 2014. Identify who at the White House was informed, the date, and the substance of any communications.
3. Provide the reasoning, if any, that Treasury and the White House waited over two months to inform Congressional investigators of the email loss.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at 202-225-5522.

Sincerely,  
  
DAVE CAMP  
Chairman