

May 17, 2013

Prepared Statement by Congressman Richard Hudson before the House Ways and Means Committee for a Hearing on “Internal Revenue Service Targeting Conservative Groups”

Chairman Camp, Ranking Member Levin, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement before the Committee today on a growing scandal within the current Administration. When I first learned the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had targeted conservative groups during the 2012 election, I was outraged by the reports indicating a nonpartisan government agency was actually engaging in political activities and using their taxpayer-funded resources to knowingly violate IRS policy against such activities.

Perhaps the most troubling revelation to me, and the constituents which I represent in North Carolina’s Eighth District, is the fact that these organizations, groups dedicated to promoting limited government, individual liberty and free speech, have been singled out. The American people expect the IRS and other agencies like Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) to refrain from engaging in political activities of any sort and it is incumbent upon the Congress to ensure those expectations are met.

Congressional leaders learned of numerous complaints from conservative groups who believed they were being targeted. Stories of harassing demands and sometimes outright bullying were a common theme in these complaints. Yet, when asked, the IRS repeatedly misled the public. In this Committee last year, then-IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman testified before the House Ways and Means Committee and stated that conservative political groups were not being targeted. Now that we know the truth, it is difficult to comprehend how these lies can be reconciled.

I am pleased to know that this Committee and others are investigating this egregious breach of public trust. I look forward to working with you to get to the bottom of this and ensuring to my constituents and the American people that this practice does not happen again. I thank you for your time today and look forward to working with you on behalf of the American people.