

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

November 14, 2022

The Honorable J. Russell George  
Inspector General  
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
901 D Street, SW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Inspector General George,

We were alarmed by the report in the *New York Times*<sup>1</sup> that former President Trump, according to his Chief of Staff, had assembled his enemies list and wanted the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to investigate those on the list.

As you know, in July, it was reported in the *New York Times* that former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Comey and Acting FBI Director McCabe had been selected by the IRS for an in-depth examination as part of the National Research Program. The likelihood that this was a random selection and not political targeting of these two taxpayers seemed implausible. When news of the audits of Mr. Comey and Mr. McCabe broke, the IRS responded that Commissioner Rettig “has never been in contact with the White House – in either administration – on enforcement of individual tax matters.”<sup>2</sup>

Now, the *New York Times* is reporting that “along with Mr. Comey and Mr. McCabe, Mr. Trump discussed using the I.R.S. and the Justice Department to investigate the former C.I.A. director John O. Brennan; Hillary Clinton; Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and the owner of The Washington Post, whose coverage often angered Mr. Trump; Peter Strzok, the lead F.B.I. agent on the Russia investigation; and Lisa Page, an F.B.I. official who exchanged text messages with Mr. Strzok that were critical of Mr. Trump.”

When the first story broke, Commissioner Rettig said that he reached out to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) regarding the matter. This time, we are reaching out to TIGTA. We believe that TIGTA’s review of the IRS’s targeting of Mr. Comey and Mr. McCabe—the former President’s political enemies—should include the new information reported by the Chief of Staff in the *New York Times*. The actions of former President Trump continue to undermine public confidence in full and fair tax administration and this “enemies list” is just the most recent example.

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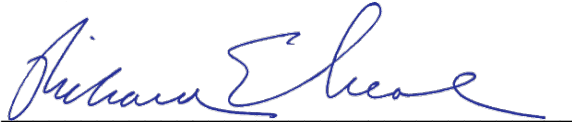
<sup>1</sup> [Trump Wanted I.R.S. Investigations of Foes, Top Aide Says - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/14/us/politics/trump-wanted-irs-investigations-of-foes-top-aide-says.html)

<sup>2</sup> [FBI’s James Comey, Andrew McCabe, audited by IRS after angering Trump - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2022/11/14/fbi-james-comey-andrew-mccabe-audited-by-irs-after-angering-trump/)

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Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your updates on these allegations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard E. Neal", written over a horizontal line.

Richard E. Neal, *Chair*  
Committee on Ways and Means

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Pascrell, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Pascrell, Jr., *Chair*  
Subcommittee on Oversight