



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

August 25, 2020

Re: 2019-06-185 and 2019-07-120

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the production comprising Treasury's response to your FOIA requests dated June 24, 2019 and July 19, 2019 to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury). The request asked for records regarding congressional oversight of specific matters and general policies, concerns, and considerations related to congressional oversight of the executive branch.

On or about January 3, 2020, the scope of the request was narrowed to records of relevant political officials and White House counsel staff related to congressional requests for the President's tax returns.

Treasury conducted reasonable searches for responsive documents, and three pages of materials were uncovered. These 3 pages are being released with redactions to protect personal privacy ((b)(6)) and internal White House deliberations ((b)(5)).

If you have any questions, please contact Alexander Sverdlov in the Department of Justice at Alexander.Sverdlov@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Dodson

Richard S. Dodson
Senior Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of the Treasury

FW: House Member Letter re: Trump Tax Returns

From: Jeffrey K. Freeland WH/EOP
To: Ryan D. Brady WH/EOP "Vaughan, Frederick"
<frederick.vaughan@(b) (6)>
Date: Mon, 15 Apr 2019 15:06:36 -0400
Attachments: House Member letter to W&M re POTUS tax returns--04-12-19.pdf (498.37 kB)

From: Paul S. Teller WH/EOP
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Shahira E. Knight WH/EOP Benjamin R. Howard WH/EOP
Benjamin R. Howard WH/EOP Jeffrey K. Freeland WH/EOP
Jeffrey K. Freeland WH/EOP Thomas s. Andrews WH/EOP
Daniel Q. Greenwood WH/EOP
Subject: House Member Letter re: Trump Tax Returns

FYI folks—please see attached for a letter re: requests for the President's tax returns. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Paul Teller
Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Paul S. Teller WH/EOP

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal,

We write to express our concern regarding your request for the Ways and Means Committee to receive and review President Donald J. Trump's private tax returns for the previous six years. We ask for you to discontinue your effort to obtain President Trump's private tax returns until you expand upon your justification for this request.

As you well know, there is no legal requirement for a presidential candidate or sitting president to release his tax returns. President Trump, a sitting president, has not been charged with a crime or fraud of any kind. The absence of any wrongdoing belies a potential ulterior motive for this request.

Moreover, your request for President Trump's tax returns lacks a valid legislative purpose and is an infringement on one's Fourth Amendment rights. If the purpose of this request is truly to evaluate how "the IRS audits and enforces the Federal tax laws against a president," why then do you request Donald Trump's tax returns for years before he was sworn in as president?

Instead, this request raises serious cause for skepticism about the fairness of our governmental systems in exchange for perceived political gains. Oversight is one of the most important roles of the legislative branch. However, using the investigative powers of Congress to target political opponents in a manner such as this squanders the legitimacy of this important function and this institution. We are concerned that if political targeting like this is done to one U.S. citizen, it could be done to any U.S. citizen in the future. In fact, in the 115th Congress the Committee on Ways and Means determined that such a request would be an "abuse of authority" and "set a dangerous precedent by targeting a single individual's confidential tax returns and associated financial documents for disclosure".¹

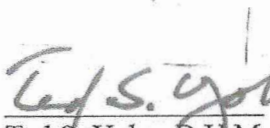
In recent years, we have seen enough abuses by federal agencies, including Lois Lerner's targeting of conservative non-profits; protecting Hillary Clinton's private email server and allowing State Department classified records to be destroyed. Your pursuit of Donald J. Trump's tax returns fits too neatly into this pattern of government abuses.

¹ H. Comm. On Ways & Means, H. Rept. No. 115-309, at 2, 3 (2017),
<https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/hrpt309/CRPT-115hrpt309.pdf>

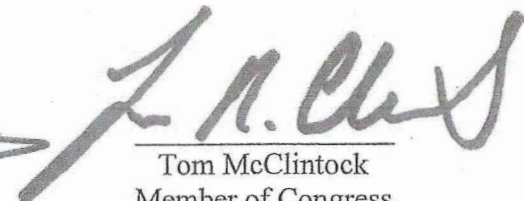
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

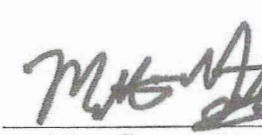
For these reasons, we the undersigned urge you to discontinue the effort to obtain President Trump's private tax records, for which we believe you have the most dubious justifications and motives, until you expand upon your justification for this request.

Sincerely,

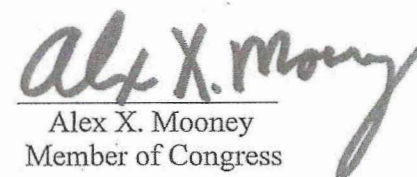

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress


Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

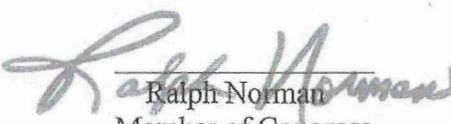

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

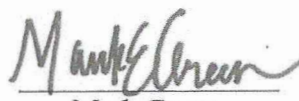

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

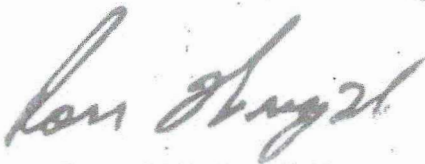

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress


Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress


Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress


Mark Green
Member of Congress


Ron Wright
Member of Congress