Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Frank Bisignano
Chief Executive Officer
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Mr. Bisignano:

On April 14, 2026, we wrote to you with sixteen questions about the Administration's weaponization of the Internal Revenue Service against tax-exempt organizations and their donors. We asked for written responses by April 29, 2026.[1] On April 22, 2026, your Office of Legislative Affairs confirmed in writing that the Service had received the letter and "assigned it for response."[2] More than four months later, no response has come. Not one of the sixteen questions has been answered.

Our concern has only heightened since. On August 27, 2026, the *New York Post* reported that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and his aides are preparing a campaign of audits, revocations of tax-exempt status, and back-tax and penalty assessments against a slate of charitable organizations — grantmaking foundations, civil rights groups, and advocacy organizations among them — selected not for any identified violation of the tax laws but for their perceived opposition to this Administration.[3] The reported vehicle is the September 2025 presidential memorandum directing scrutiny of nonprofits alleged to operate for a "substantial illegal purpose" — the same directive, and the implementing Attorney General memorandum defining "domestic terrorism" by reference to constitutionally protected speech, that we raised with you in April.[4] An official is quoted saying that "[t]here's a lot of internal pressure to get it done," but that some people are "moving too slowly at the IRS."

That is a published account, in the Administration's own words, of the conduct our letter asked you about. Section 7217 of the Internal Revenue Code makes it a federal crime for the President, the Vice President, the Treasury Secretary, and members of their staffs to request, directly or indirectly, that the IRS audit or investigate any particular taxpayer, and it requires IRS officers and employees to report any such request to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

---

[1] Letter from Rep. Lloyd Doggett and Rep. Terri Sewell et al. to Frank Bisignano, Chief Executive Officer, Internal Revenue Service (Apr. 14, 2026) (attached).
[2] Email from the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Legislative Affairs, to staff for Rep. Lloyd Doggett (Apr. 22, 2026) ("[W]e have received this letter and assigned it for response.").
[3] [Trump admin set to target George Soros nonprofit in tax crackdown] – New York Post (Aug. 27, 2026).
[4] National Security Presidential Memorandum 7, Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence (Sept. 25, 2025), and Memorandum of the Attorney General of the same title (Dec. 4, 2025).

Writing the day after the *Post* report, the conservative Cato Institute's Walter Olson observed that "[t]he IRS is not supposed to apply an ideological line in revoking tax exemption," and cautioned: "Protect your opponents' rights, and when the wheel turns, you may find that you've protected your own as well."[5] That warning follows a Cato panel this June at which the president of DonorsTrust and the president of the MacArthur Foundation — institutions that agree on little else — jointly defended the independence of the charitable sector from government pressure, in whatever ideological direction it may run.[6]

We therefore renew, in full, the sixteen requests set out in our April 14 letter, which is attached and incorporated here by reference, and we ask for written responses immediately. Please also identify the office to which our April 14 letter was assigned for response, the status of that response, and each official at the IRS, the Department of the Treasury, or the White House who has reviewed it or otherwise participated in its handling.

You told the Ways and Means Committee that you were committed "100 percent" to an IRS that would not initiate audits, investigations, or revocations of tax-exempt status on the basis of political targeting. Answering this letter is the least of what that commitment requires.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

[5] An Ideologically Driven Plan To Target Nonprofits? – Walter Olson, Cato Institute (Aug. 28, 2026).
[6] Protecting Donors' Freedom Helps Protect Everyone's Freedom – Cato Institute (June 22, 2026), discussing Freedom to Give: Philanthropy, Civil Society, and Limits of State Power.