

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Chandler Smith

May 13, 2013 202-224-6244

**Heller Calls for IRS Commissioner, Treasury Secretary to Answer to Congress about IRS Targeting Conservatives**

*Demands answers about reports that the IRS unfairly targeted conservative groups*

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) called for Acting IRS Commissioner Miller and Treasury Secretary Lew to answer questions surrounding reports that the IRS unfairly targeted conservative groups. The letter asks Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Chairman Carl Levin (D-MI) to ensure that these individuals are included in hearings that Senator Baucus [called for today](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/05/13/baucus-irs-tea-party-hearings/2155307/).

“Reports of the IRS deliberately targeting conservative groups are disturbing and contradictory to the fundamental American values of liberty and freedom - the very values the government is designed to protect. I and my colleagues are committed to holding those responsible for this behavior accountable,” Senator Heller stated in a [Facebook post](https://www.facebook.com/SenDeanHeller) earlier today.

A PDF of the letter is attached to this release.

**Full text of the letter below**:

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance

219 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin

Chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

340 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baucus and Levin,

The recent revelation that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allegedly delayed the tax-exempt status applications for certain conservative groups for further review is shocking and unacceptable.  I request that you immediately call upon Treasury Secretary Lew, Acting IRS Commissioner Miller, and other IRS staff involved in this case to testify in a hearing before your Committee.  As Members of Congress who have sworn to uphold and protect the Constitution, it is imperative that Congress launch a comprehensive investigation into these actions.

Beginning as early as March 2010, the agency’s practice of intentionally targeting and singling out conservative groups for exercising their First Amendment rights amounts to government corruption and is an illegal abuse of power.  The IRS has betrayed the public’s trust and must be held accountable.  It is imperative the IRS operate with the utmost integrity as a politically neutral agency, not as a government bully.

This issue needs to be thoroughly examined in an open and transparent manner before Congress, and the IRS needs to be held accountable for this grotesque display of corruption.  I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dean Heller

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