



KOCH COMPANIES PUBLIC SECTOR, LLC
Legal, Government, Public Affairs

April 28, 2016

Dear Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means,

On behalf of Koch Companies Public Sector, I urge you to support the Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act, legislation that would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from requiring that the identity of contributors to 501(c) organizations be included in annual returns.

We share the belief held by Congressman Peter Roskam, Speaker Paul Ryan, Chairman Kevin Brady and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell – all stalwart defenders of free speech rights for all Americans regardless of one’s political beliefs – that guaranteeing First Amendment protections is of critical importance to our country.

The targeting of non-profit organizations by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to limit free speech under this Administration is well documented. From the IRS subjecting donors of non-profit organizations to the gift tax, to the direct targeting of conservative non-profit organizations based solely on their beliefs, this legislation could not be more pertinent.

Considering the pair of reports released earlier this year by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), it’s even more pressing. The GAO found serious internal control flaws within the IRS that could allow the agency to continue its targeting of certain Americans for audit “based on an organization’s religious, educational, political, or other views.”

Even the IRS itself recognizes the need for change. Tamara Ripperda, IRS Director of Exempt Organizations, publicly stated that the IRS is considering the elimination of the Schedule B donor reporting requirement because of the difficulty of managing the information, maintaining its statutory confidentiality and its relative lack of utility for purposes of reviewing and overseeing exempt organizations. IRS Commissioner John Koskinan shared a similar view in 2015, writing that the agency is reviewing “whether our tax administration needs justify the reporting burdens imposed on taxpayers.”

The Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act provides a much needed fix to the system and protects the First Amendment. Prohibiting the IRS from collecting the identity of voters who contribute to non-profits will curtail the agency from any new attempts to target non-profit organizations. Regardless of the political affiliation of future Administrations, the IRS should never have the latitude to target groups based on certain beliefs.

Koch’s government and public affairs activities are based on principles that bring the greatest well-being to society. As we work to help people improve their lives, Koch will continue to

advocate for free speech protections of all Americans. This issue is non-partisan to the core, and we encourage all Members of Congress to vote to protect this fundamental right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Ellender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip Ellender
President, Government & Public Affairs
Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC