

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

July 7, 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,

I write today to request an immediate investigation into the very serious allegations raised in a recent *New York Times* article.<sup>1</sup> It is alleged that two former directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were targeted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under a Trump-appointed Commissioner for audits as part of the National Research Program. As you may be aware, these directors, James B. Comey and Andrew G. McCabe, were fired by former President Trump because they failed to advance his agenda.

The American people need to have full faith in the IRS and the fair administration of our tax laws. I am very concerned about the impact on public confidence resulting from allegations that the IRS has been used to exact revenge on political enemies. These allegations are reminiscent of another time when a president inappropriately used the IRS to target his enemies.

In a recorded conversation in the Oval Office on May 13, 1971, Richard M. Nixon laid out for his aides the job qualifications for the next commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. "I want to be sure he is a ruthless son of a [b----], that he will do what he's told, that every income tax return I want to see I see, that he will go after our enemies and not go after our friends," the president told H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, according to a transcript published years later in *The Washington Post*.<sup>2</sup>

The possibility that the former President or someone in the White House, his cabinet, his appointees, or leadership working under the Trump-appointed IRS Commissioner may have requested an audit of those deemed disloyal is alarming. It is unconscionable that someone within the IRS may have acted on this request out of loyalty to the Trump administration or fear of retaliation for failing to act.

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael S. Schmidt, *Comey and McCabe, Who Infuriated Trump, Both Faced Intensive I.R.S. Audits* (July 6, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/06/us/politics/comey-mccabe-irs-audits.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Emily Langer, *Johnnie Walters, IRS commissioner under President Richard M. Nixon, dies at 94* (June 26, 2014), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/johnnie-walters-irs-commissioner-under-president-richard-m-nixon-dies-at-94/2014/06/26/e6ae4906-fd3d-11e3-b1f4-8e77c632c07b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/johnnie-walters-irs-commissioner-under-president-richard-m-nixon-dies-at-94/2014/06/26/e6ae4906-fd3d-11e3-b1f4-8e77c632c07b_story.html).

Inspector General George

July 7, 2022

Page 2

With this in mind, I request that your office fully investigate the allegations set forth in the *New York Times* article and respond to the following questions:

1. How were the former FBI directors selected for the exceedingly rare NRP audits? Was it truly random?
2. Did the Commissioner or the former Chief Counsel, both political appointees, or their staffs know of the selection of the former FBI directors for the NRP? If they did know, when did they know and what action was taken by them?
3. Which employees within the IRS or the Department of the Treasury can add taxpayers to the NRP or remove taxpayers from the NRP once selected?

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

Richard E. Neal  
Chairman