

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2013

Daniel Werfel
Acting Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Werfel:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding reports that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) permitted up to 100,000 Social Security numbers to be openly posted on government websites accessible to the public. Reports indicate that it wasn't until your agency was alerted earlier this month to the fact that a significant number of Social Security numbers were posted on IRS.gov that your agency removed public Web access to the records in question.

The American people are justifiably troubled by this further breach in privacy by your agency, based on the numerous concerns raised about the IRS over the past several weeks. These concerns form a consistent and disturbing pattern of mismanagement and unprofessionalism that is unbecoming of federal officials — especially those who are trusted to handle the sensitive, personal information of Americans. As such, we are seeking a full and accurate accounting of the exact circumstances surrounding the recent divulgence of Social Security numbers from individuals involved with Section 527 political organizations. We ask that you respond to the following questions:

- Who and what department within the IRS is responsible for maintaining the Section 527 database?
- What is the procedure for documenting and publishing the forms included in the database?
- It is our understanding that the IRS has taken the position that by law it cannot remove sensitive personal information before making it publicly available. How is this reconciled with the official statement of the Office of Management and Budget, which states: “As is required by the Privacy Act, the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), and other laws and policies, each *agency must take appropriate steps necessary to protect personal information* from unauthorized use, access, disclosure or sharing” (Office of Management and Budget, M-05-08, Designation of Senior Agency Officials for Privacy).

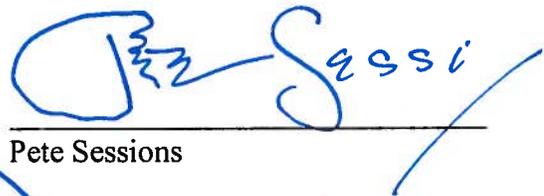
- Is there a policy in place to address the situation when Social Security numbers are improperly disclosed on public filings? If not, will a policy be created in light of this situation? If so, will that policy be formulated by the IRS, or will another branch of government's oversight personnel be involved?
- Will the IRS be taking any actions to protect those individuals whose information was leaked? What is the potential risk for donors whose information was leaked, and will they be contacted regarding this issue? What recommendations would the IRS make for those individuals now at risk to actively protect themselves from identity theft or other types of fraud?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Tom Latham



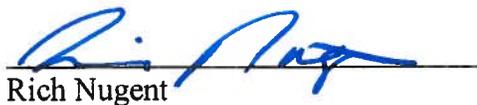
Pete Sessions



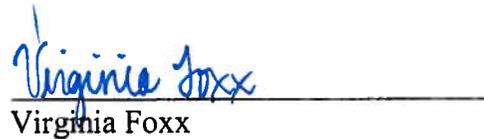
Marsha Blackburn



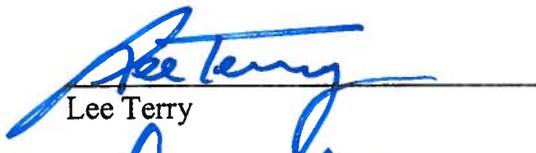
Gregg Harper



Rich Nugent



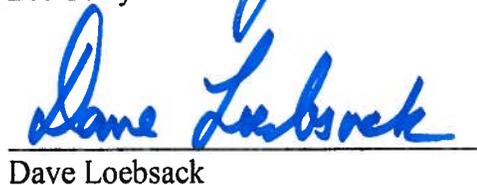
Virginia Foxx



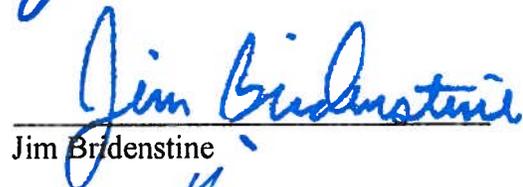
Lee Terry



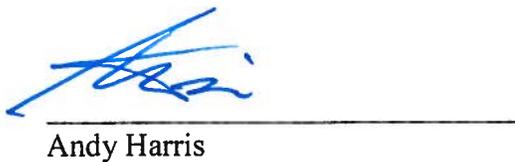
John Kline



Dave Loebsack



Jim Bridenstine



Andy Harris



Peter King

Jack Kingston

Jack Kingston

Chris Collins

Chris Collins

Michael R. Turner

Michael Turner

Leonard Lance

Leonard Lance

Markwayne Mullin

Markwayne Mullin

Gus Bilirakis

Gus Bilirakis

Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers

Steve King

Steve King

Mike Simpson

Mike Simpson

Ron Kind

Ron Kind

Mario Diaz-Balart

Mario Diaz-Balart

Billy Long

Billy Long

Steve Womack

Steve Womack

Cory Gardner

Cory Gardner

Keith Rothfus

Keith Rothfus

Matt Salmon

Matt Salmon

Austin Scott

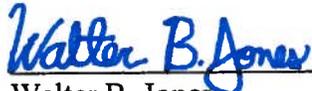
Austin Scott

Phil Gingrey

Phil Gingrey


Ron DeSantis


Ken Calvert


Walter B. Jones

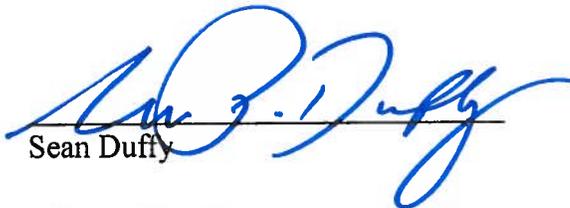

Lynn Westmoreland

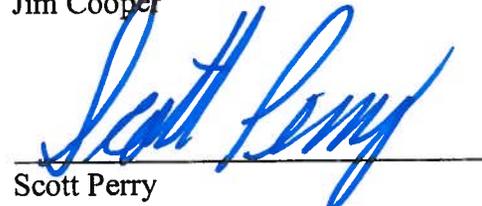

Bob Gibbs


John Culberson

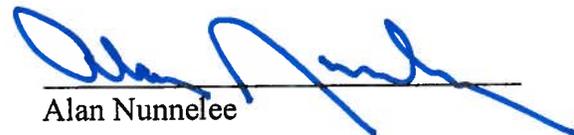

George Holding

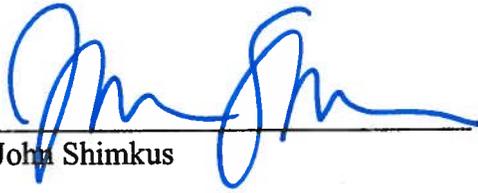

Jim Cooper


Sean Duffy


Scott Perry


John J. Duncan, Jr.


Alan Nunnelee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

John Shimkus