



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

October 12, 2016

Mr. Alfred J. Lechner, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cause of Action Institute
1875 Eye Street
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lechner:

I am writing in response to your letter to Inspector General Michael Horowitz dated June 29, 2016, regarding the alleged improper handling of confidential taxpayer information by the Department of Justice (Department) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Based upon our initial inquiries, it appears that some protected taxpayer information was included on compact discs (CDs) that the IRS provided to the Department in response to a Department request. It further appears that when the Department learned of this, it returned the CDs to the IRS and informed Congress about it. Given the absence of available information suggesting that Department employees over whom our Office has jurisdiction might have engaged in conduct that violates laws, regulations, or policy, we have determined that this matter does not warrant further investigation by the Department's Office of the Inspector General.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We understand that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration will be responding separately to your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Beckhard", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel C. Beckhard
Assistant Inspector General
Oversight and Review Division

cc: Hon. Jason Chaffetz, Chairman
Hon. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

Hon. Kevin Brady, Chairman
Hon. Sander Levin, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Hon. Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Hon. Orrin Hatch, Chairman
Hon. Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Hon. Channing D. Phillips
U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia

Hon. J. Russell George
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration