



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

August 12, 2022

Mr. Charles Rettig
Commissioner
U.S. Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

The so-called “Inflation Reduction Act” that is being considered by Congress includes \$80 billion in funds for the IRS, allowing you to hire 87,000 new agents. Though the justification for this is to identify and investigate tax cheats, we are concerned that the power this bill gives to the IRS will be used to scare and threaten law-abiding Americans.

Proponents of the Inflation Reduction Act have highlighted the need for increased funding to better investigate tax evasion. The \$80 billion being allocated to the IRS by Congress, however, is more than six times the current IRS budget of \$12.6 billion. Of the \$80 billion, \$45.6 billion will be dedicated specifically to tax enforcement.

Naturally, we have concerns over how this significant amount of money will be spent by the IRS. The IRS came under fire for buying nearly \$700,000 in ammunition at the beginning of 2022. We understand that this is not new, considering that a 2017 GAO Report found that the IRS has roughly 5 million rounds of ammunition and 4,487 guns. We are concerned, though, with how the enforcement arm of the IRS will grow and if it could be weaponized against the American people.

That said, we wish to learn more about the law enforcement capabilities of the IRS, so we request your attention to the questions below:

- 1) How many of the new 87,000 agents that you plan to hire will be law enforcement professionals?
- 2) How many rounds of ammunition does the IRS have on hand?
- 3) How many firearms does the IRS have, and can you breakdown the types of firearms?
- 4) Of the audits carried out by the IRS annually, how many of them involved agents from the IRS’s Criminal Investigation Division?

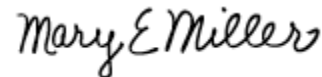
- a. Did all the audits involving agents from the Criminal Investigation Division lead to an arrest? If not, what percentage did?
- 5) Of the audits involving agents from the Criminal Investigation Division, what percentage resulted in prosecution and/or imprisonment?
- 6) How often does the IRS involve local police or other law enforcement agencies in their investigations?
- 7) How often has a firearm been discharged by an agent from the Criminal Investigation Division during an audit/investigation?
 - a. How many times was a firearm discharged intentionally?
 - b. How many times was a firearm discharged accidentally?
- 8) With the influx of new agents, what procedures are being put in place to protect the privacy of Americans and prevent employees from carrying out unauthorized access violations?
- 9) A 2018 audit from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found that not all agents were properly trained on how to use a firearm and failed to meet the IRS's Criminal Investigation Division's standards. With the hiring of additional staff, how has the IRS worked to ensure that agents are properly trained?
- 10) How many IRS agents are currently working remotely?

For questions 4, 5, and 7, please provide information for the past five years and break it down annually. We wish to have detailed, written responses to the questions above no later than August 31, 2022, and look forward to your response.

God bless,



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Alexander X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress