

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 26, 2015

The Honorable John Koskinen
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of Treasury
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

On May 18, 2015, I requested the testimony of Ms. Mary Howard, the Internal Revenue Service's Director of Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure, at a June 3, 2015 hearing on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your staff subsequently advised the Committee that you insist on testifying in Ms. Howard's place. The Committee invited senior officials responsible for FOIA programs throughout the executive branch, such as Ms. Howard, to appear at the hearing because they can testify with specificity regarding the mechanics of the FOIA response process.

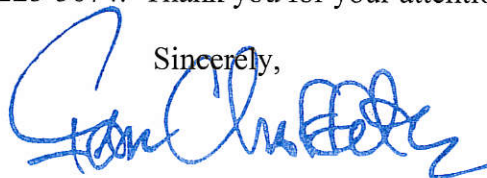
Ms. Howard manages the IRS's public disclosure program and is directly responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with FOIA. She is uniquely positioned to answer questions about the agency's challenges with respect to responding to FOIA requests. Her testimony will advance the Committee's understanding of the IRS's FOIA program and her experience and perspective will be valuable to the Committee's examination of the barriers that limit public access to executive branch documents and information.

Please confirm that Ms. Howard will appear and testify before the Committee on June 3, 2015 as soon as possible, but no later than May 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Otherwise, the Committee will consider the use of compulsory process with respect to Ms. Howard's testimony.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative committee in the House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee has authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time."

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Katy Rother of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member